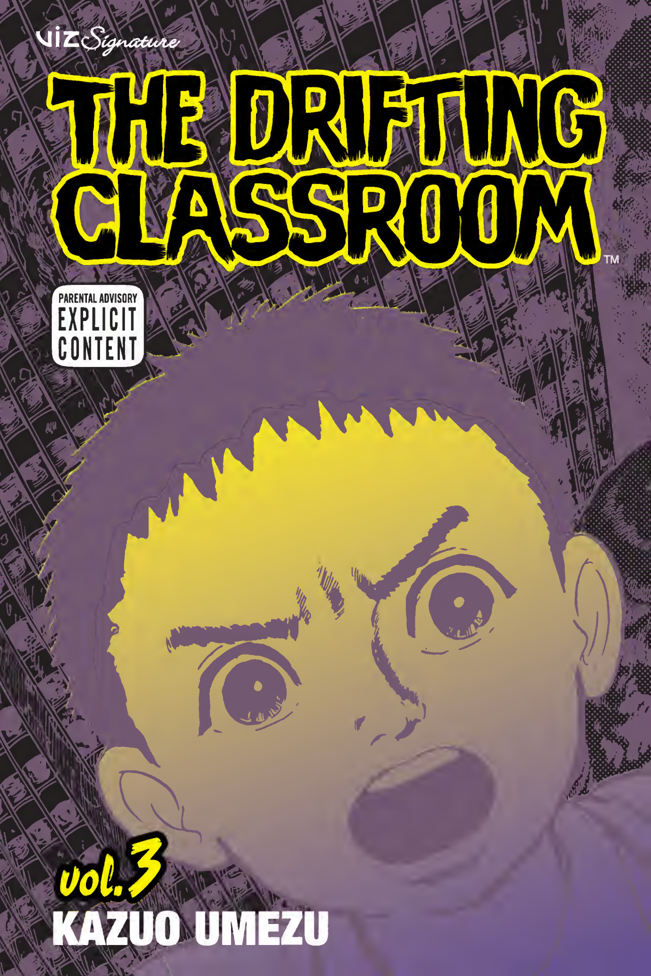

VIZ Signature

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

vol. 3

KAZUO UMEZU

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1936, Kazuo Umezu is Japan's most respected and influential horror manga artist. Umezu began his artistic career at the age of 18, creating stories for both *shôjo* (girls) and *shonen* (boys) manga magazines, and working in an amazingly diverse range of genres. In Japan he is most famous for the gag manga *Makoto-chan* (1971), but his most ambitious works are horror and science fiction, including *The Drifting Classroom* (1972-1974), *My Name is Shingo* (1982-1986), *The Left Hand of God, the Right Hand of the Devil* (1986-1989) and *Fourteen* (1990-1995). His works have been adapted into anime and live-action films.

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM
Vol. 3

STORY AND ART BY KAZUO UMEZU

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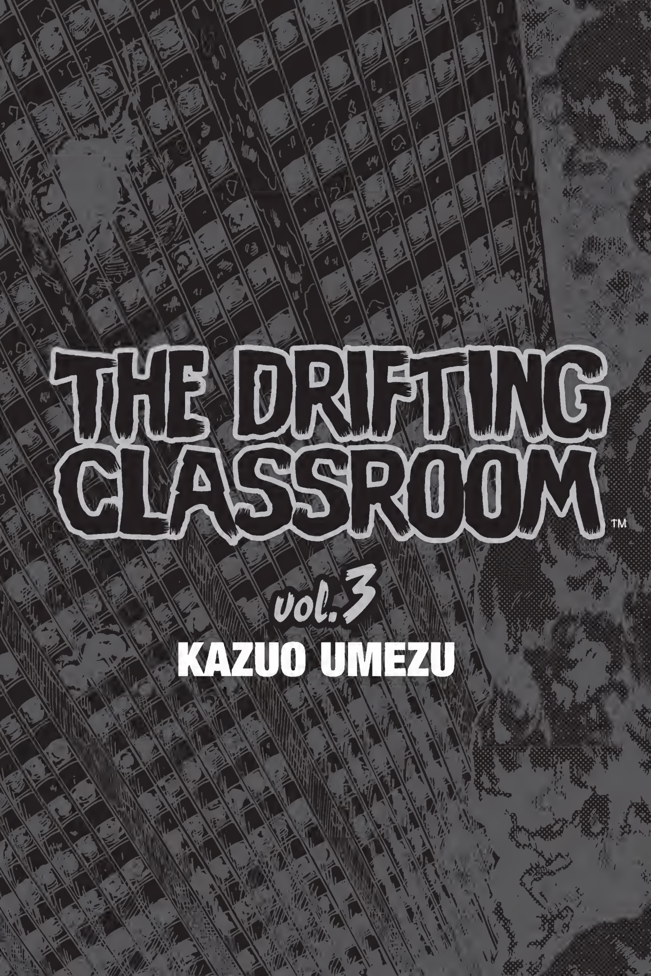
PARENTAL ADVISORY
THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. Contains strong language and graphic violence.



THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

vol.3

KAZUO UMEZU

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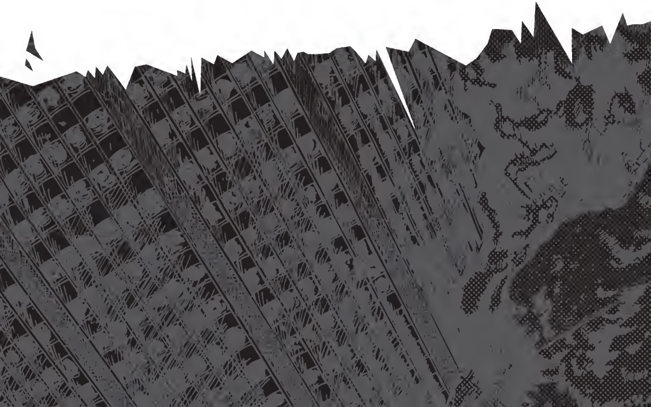
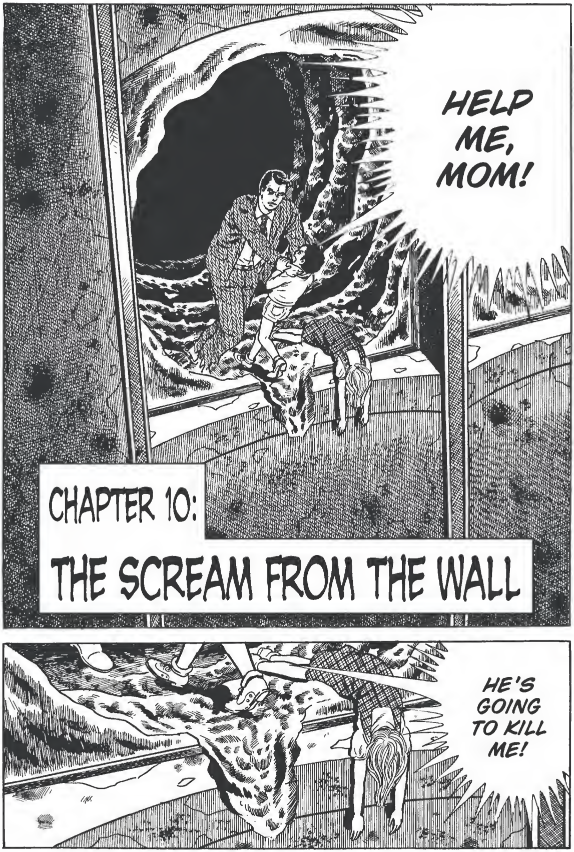
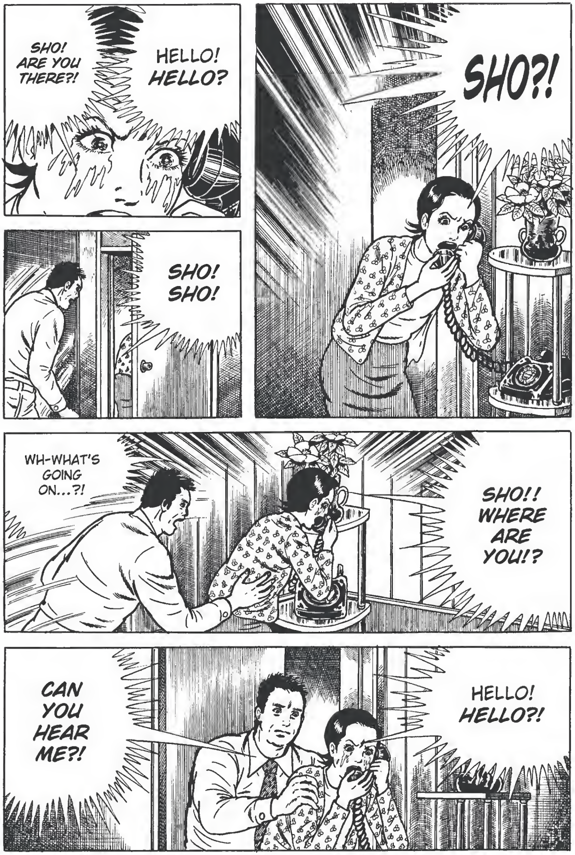
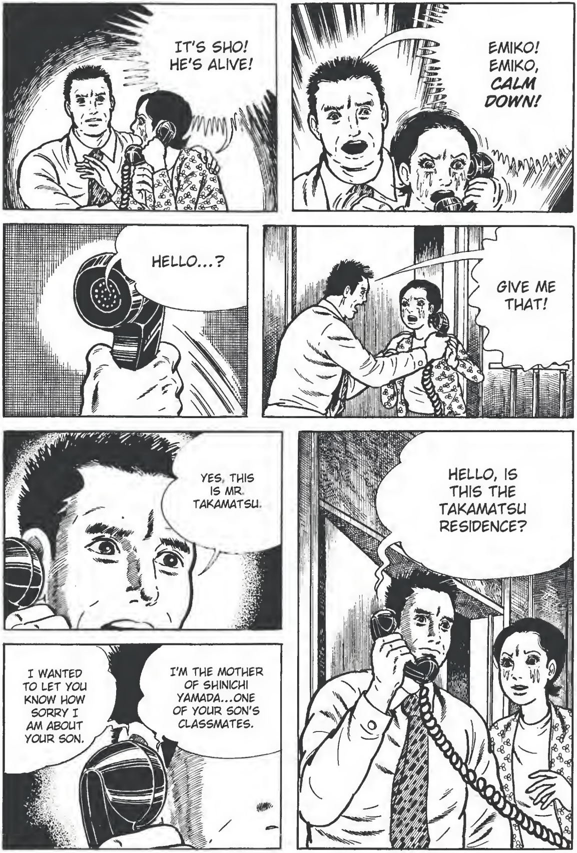


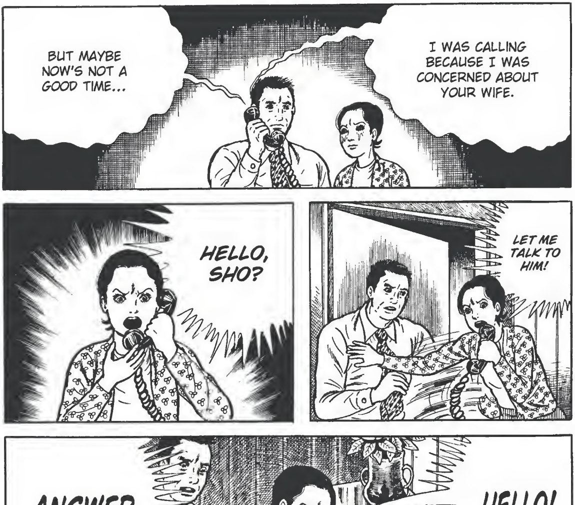
CHAPTER 10:

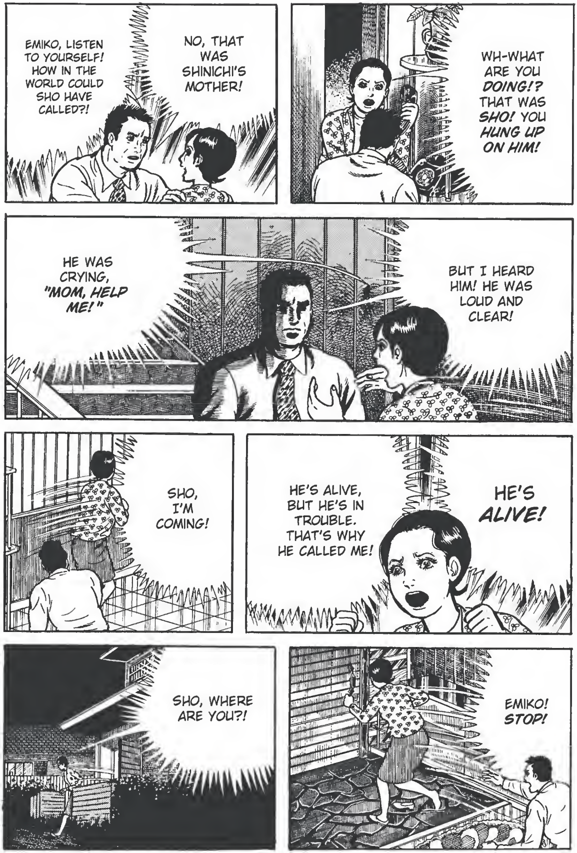
THE SCREAM FROM THE WALL

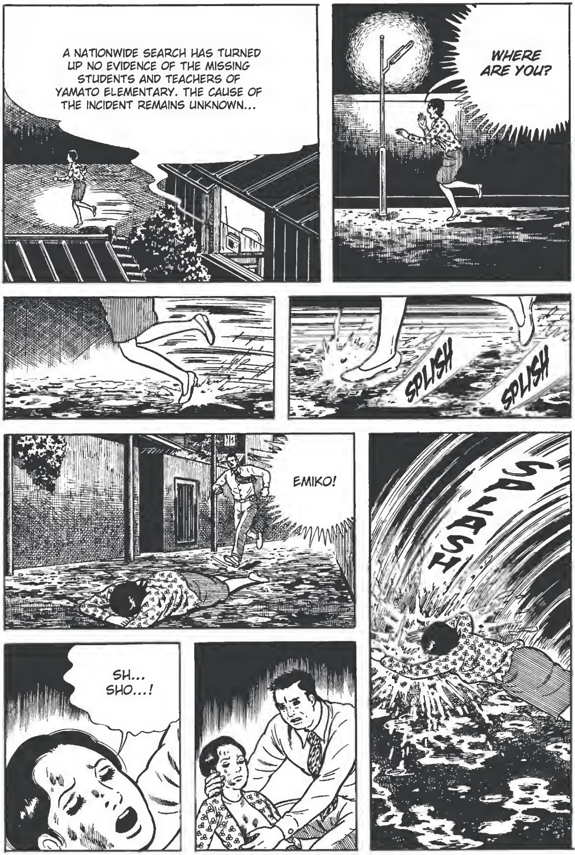

HELP ME, MOM!
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!

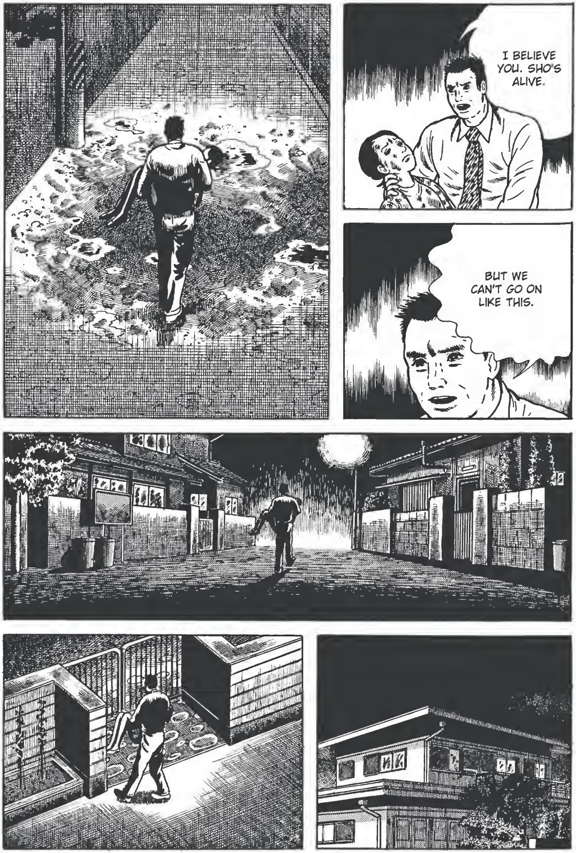

SHO?!
HELLO! HELLO?
SHO! ARE YOU THERE?!
SHO! SHO!
SHO!! WHERE ARE YOU!?
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
HELLO! HELLO?!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

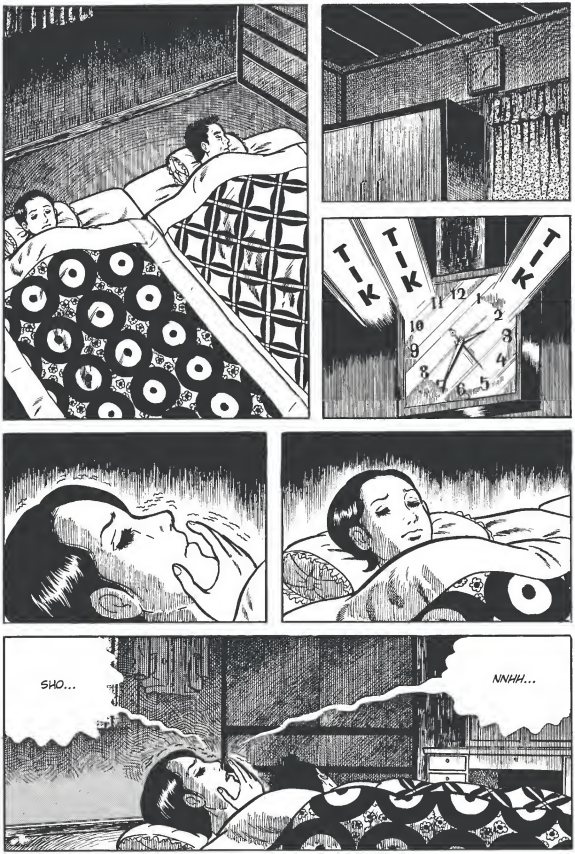

IT'S SHO! HE'S ALIVE!
EMIKO! EMIKO, *CALM DOWN!*
HELLO...?
GIVE ME THAT!
HELLO, IS THIS THE TAKAMATSU RESIDENCE?
YES, THIS IS MR. TAKAMATSU.
I'M THE MOTHER OF SHINICHI YAMADA...ONE OF YOUR SON'S CLASSMATES.
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW SORRY I AM ABOUT YOUR SON.

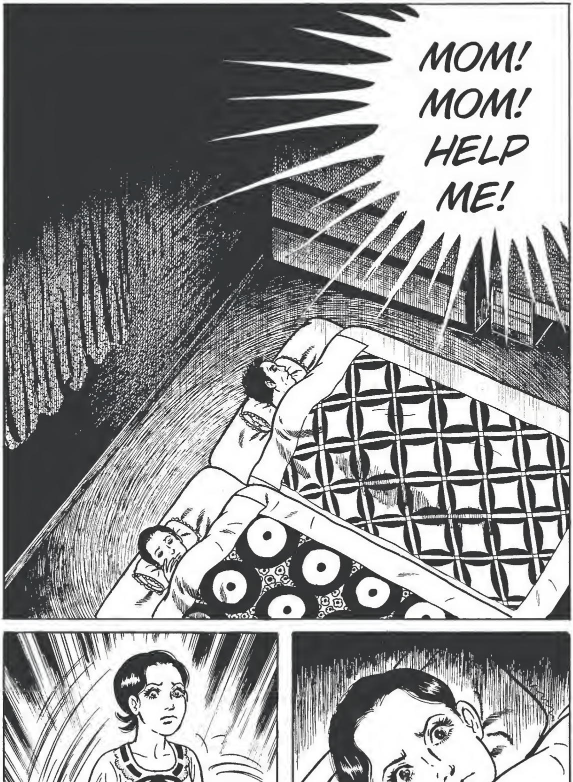

I WAS CALLING BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WIFE.
BUT MAYBE NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME...
LET ME TALK TO HIM!
HELLO, SHO?
HELLO!
ANSWER ME!
SHO! ARE YOU THERE?!
HELLO?! HELLO?!
STOP IT!
KLANG

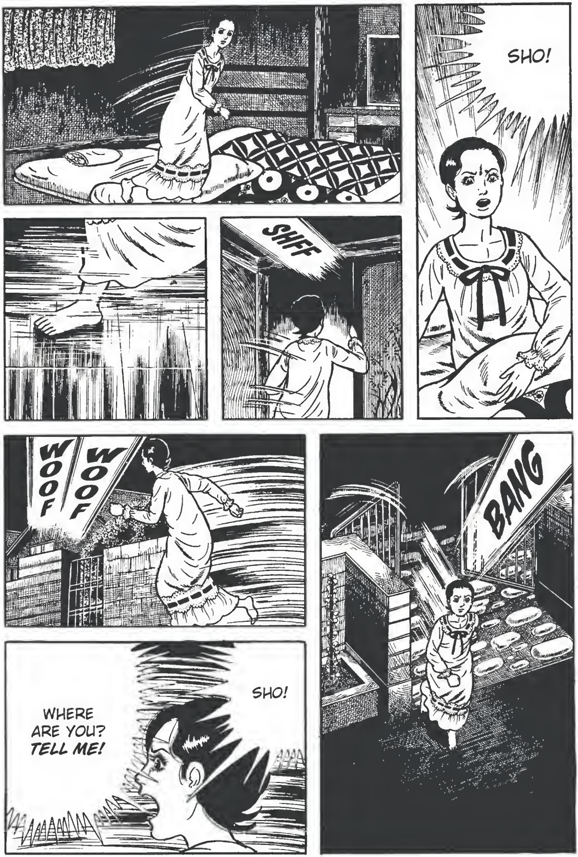

WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING!?* THAT WAS *SHO!* YOU *HUNG UP ON HIM!*
NO, THAT WAS SHINICHI'S MOTHER!
EMIKO, LISTEN TO YOURSELF! HOW IN THE WORLD COULD SHO HAVE CALLED?!
BUT I HEARD HIM! HE WAS LOUD AND CLEAR!
HE WAS CRYING, *"MOM, HELP ME!"*
HE'S *ALIVE!*
HE'S ALIVE, BUT HE'S IN TROUBLE. THAT'S WHY HE CALLED ME!
SHO, I'M COMING!
EMIKO! *STOP!*
SHO, WHERE ARE YOU?!

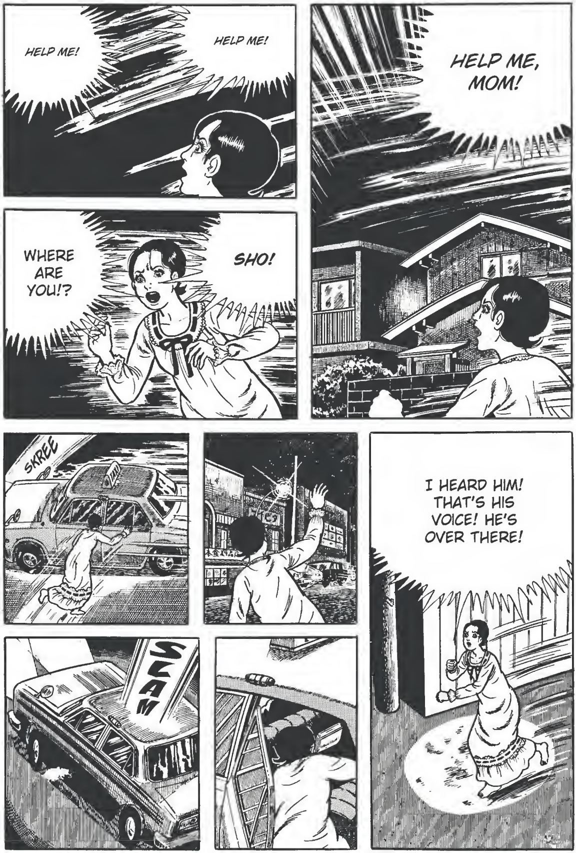

A NATIONWIDE SEARCH HAS TURNED UP NO EVIDENCE OF THE MISSING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY. THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT REMAINS UNKNOWN...
WHERE ARE YOU?
SPLISH
SPLISH
EMIKO!
SPLASH
SH... SHO...!

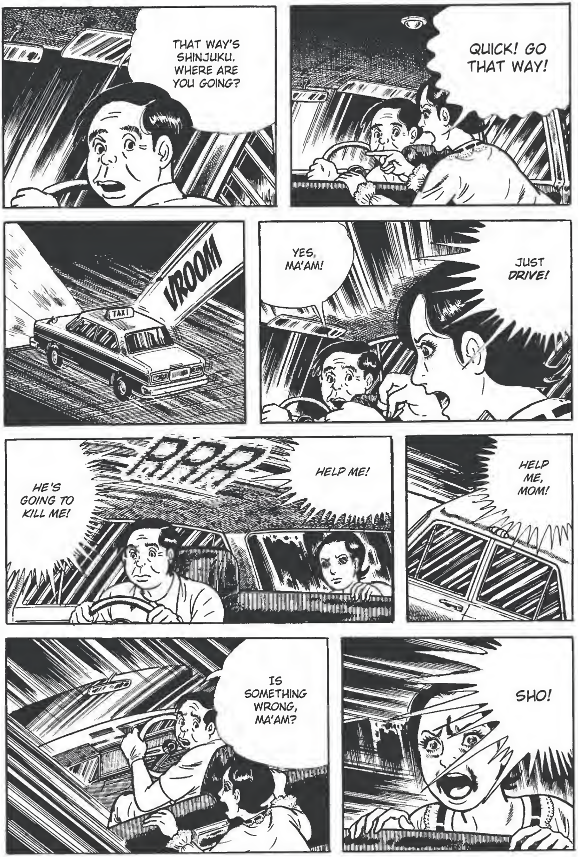

I BELIEVE YOU. SHO'S ALIVE.
BUT WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.

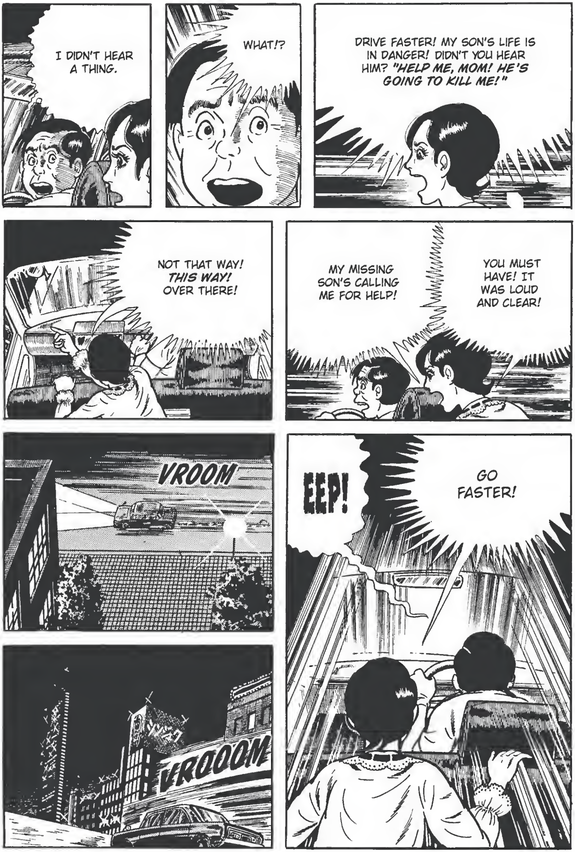

TIK
TIK
TIK
SHO...
NNHH...

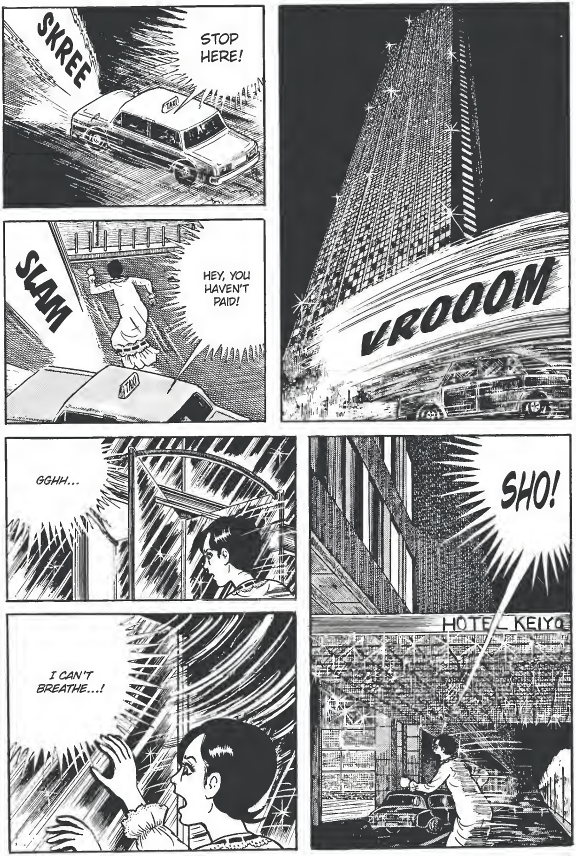

MOM! MOM! HELP ME!

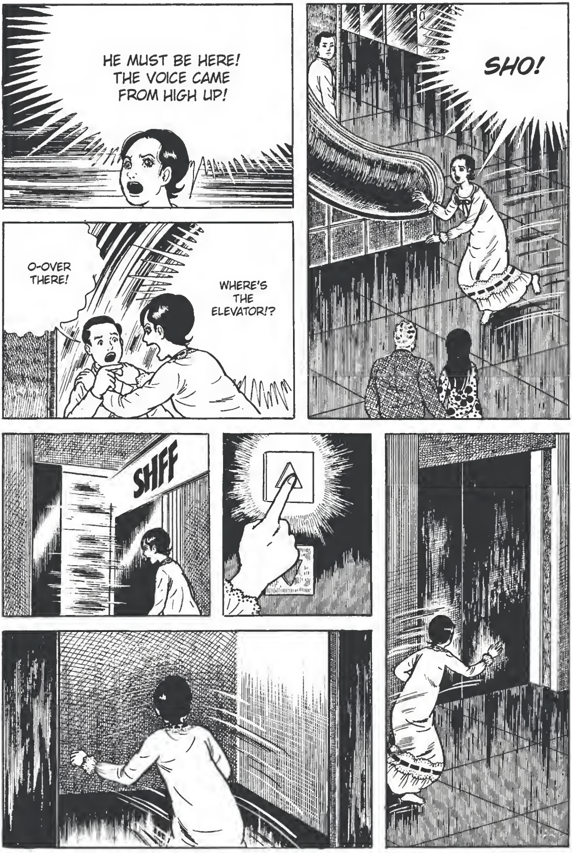

SHO!
SHIFF
BANG
WOOF
WOOF
SHO!
WHERE ARE YOU? *TELL ME!*

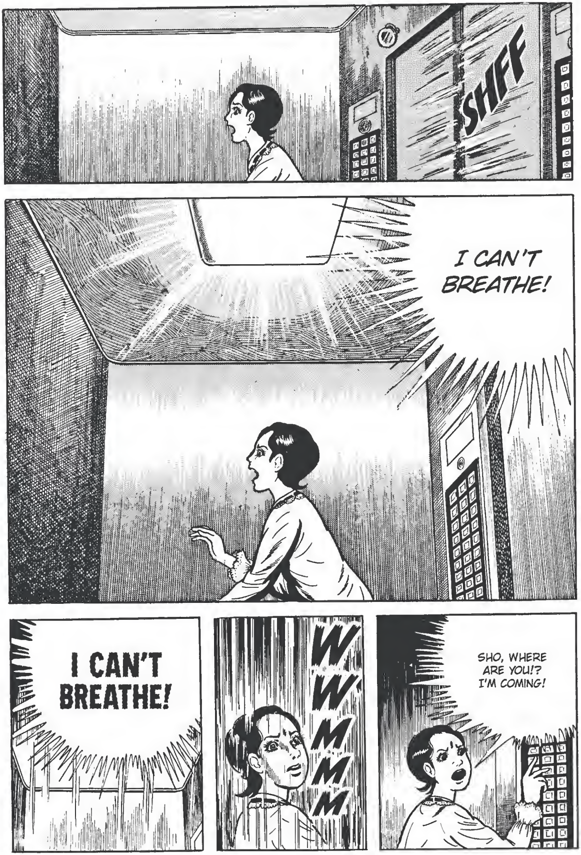

HELP ME!
HELP ME!
HELP ME, MOM!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
SHO!
SKREE
I HEARD HIM! THAT'S HIS VOICE! HE'S OVER THERE!
SLAM

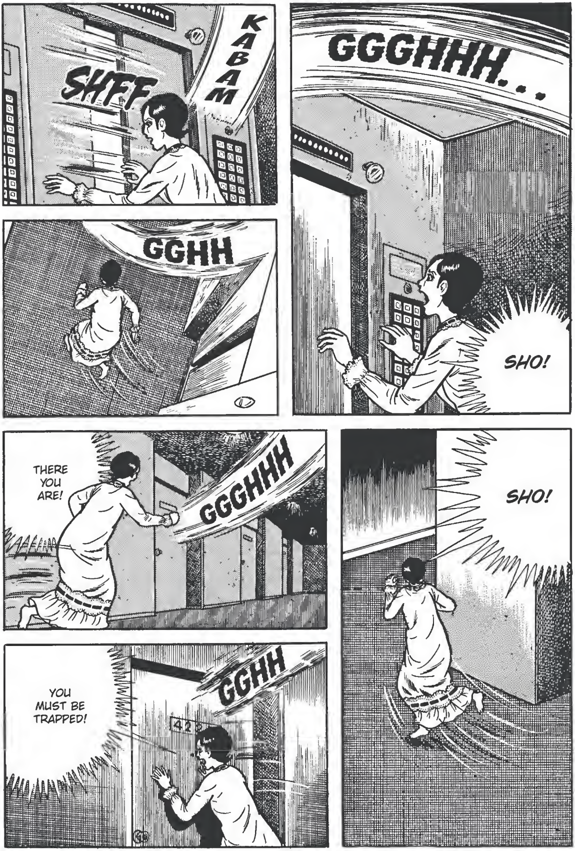

QUICK! GO THAT WAY!
THAT WAY'S SHINJUKU. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST DRIVE!
YES, MA'AM!
VROOM
TAXI
HELP ME, MOM!
RRR
HELP ME!
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
SHO!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MA'AM?

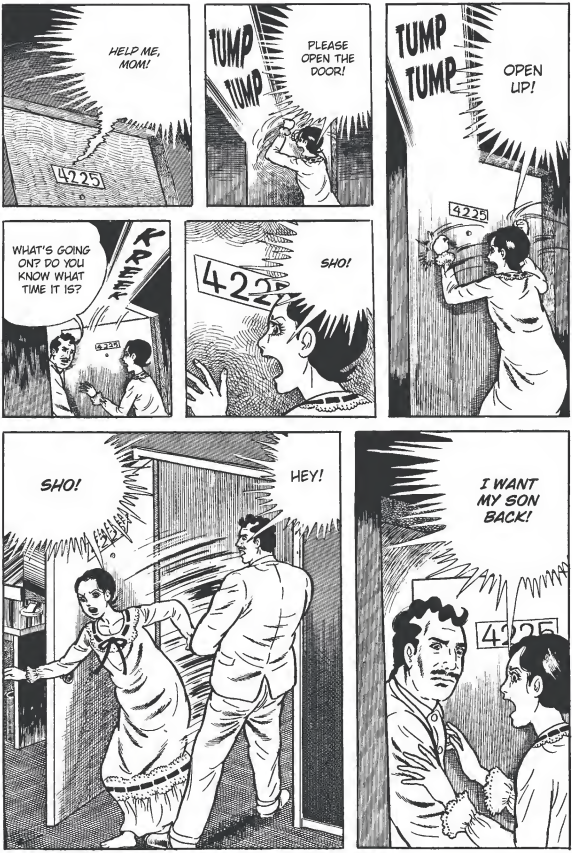

I DIDN'T HEAR A THING.
WHAT!?
DRIVE FASTER! MY SON'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? ***"HELP ME, MOM! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!"***
NOT THAT WAY! ***THIS WAY!*** OVER THERE!
MY MISSING SON'S CALLING ME FOR HELP!
YOU MUST HAVE! IT WAS LOUD AND CLEAR!
VROOM
VROOOM
EEP!
GO FASTER!

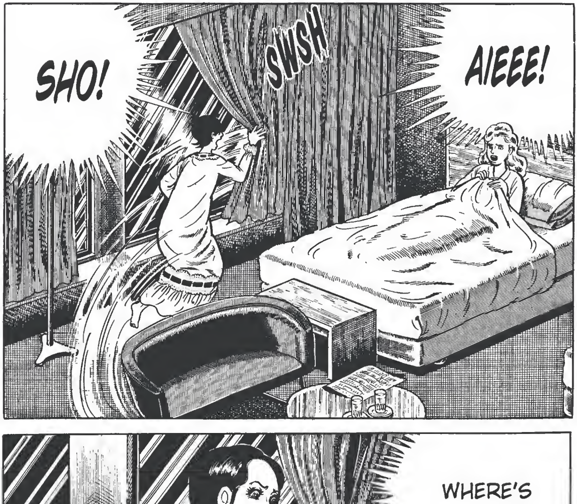

SKREE
STOP HERE!
TAXI
SLAM
HEY, YOU HAVEN'T PAID!
TAXI
VROOOM
GGHH...
I CAN'T BREATHE...!
SHO!
HOTEL KEIYO

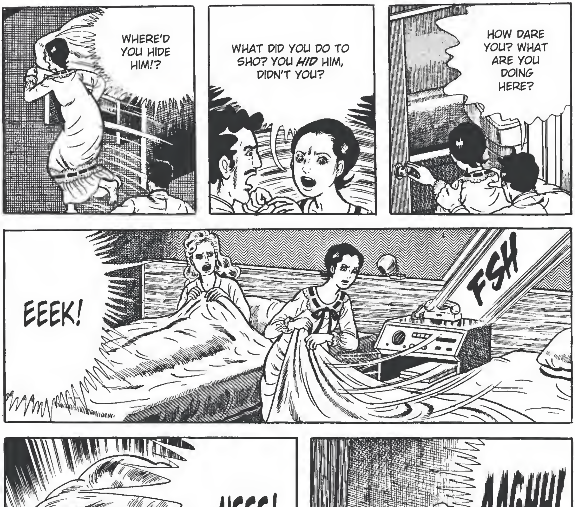

SHO!
HE MUST BE HERE! THE VOICE CAME FROM HIGH UP!
WHERE'S THE ELEVATOR!?
O-OVER THERE!
SHFF

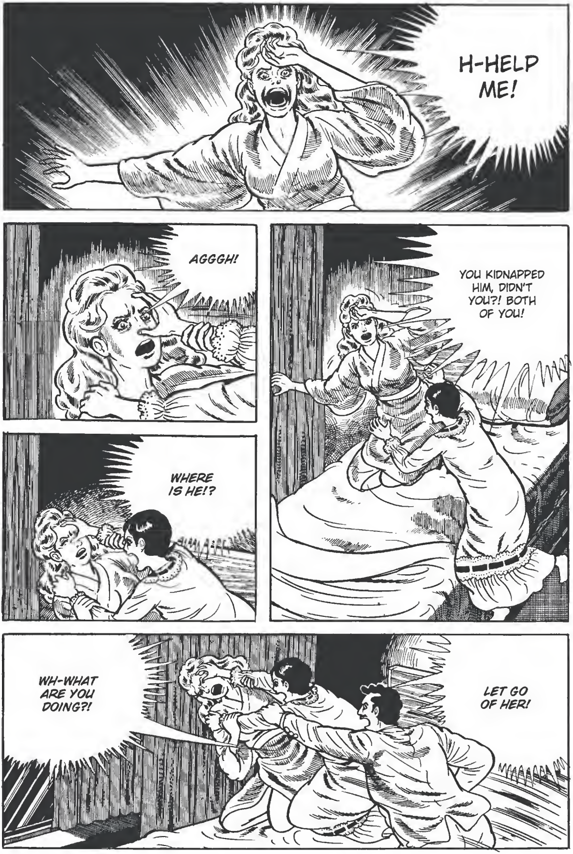

SHFF
I CAN'T BREATHE!
I CAN'T BREATHE!
WWMMM
SHO, WHERE ARE YOU!? I'M COMING!

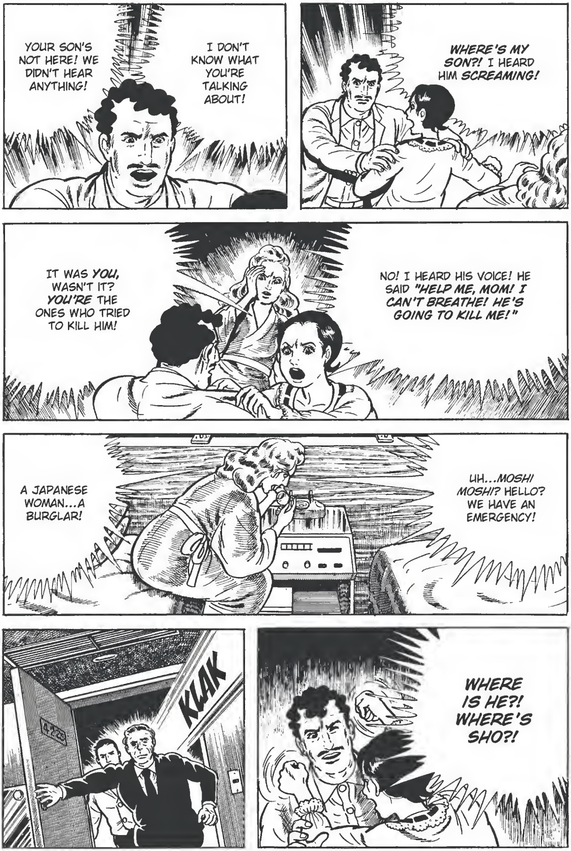

SHFF
KABAM
GGGHHH...
GGHH
SHO!
THERE YOU ARE!
GGGHHH
SHO!
YOU MUST BE TRAPPED!
GGHH

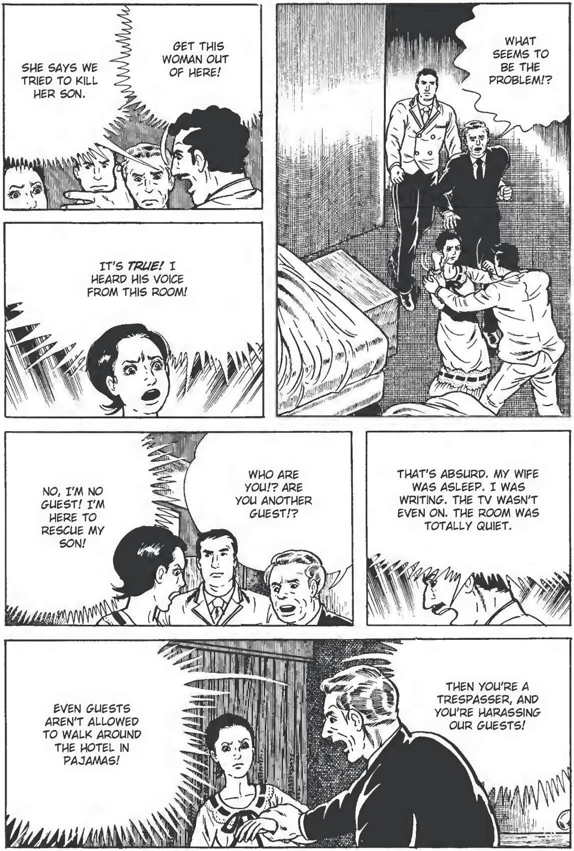

HELP ME, MOM!
4225
TUMP TUMP
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!
TUMP TUMP
OPEN UP!
4225
WHAT'S GOING ON? DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
KREEE
SHO!
SHO!
HEY!
I WANT MY SON BACK!
4225

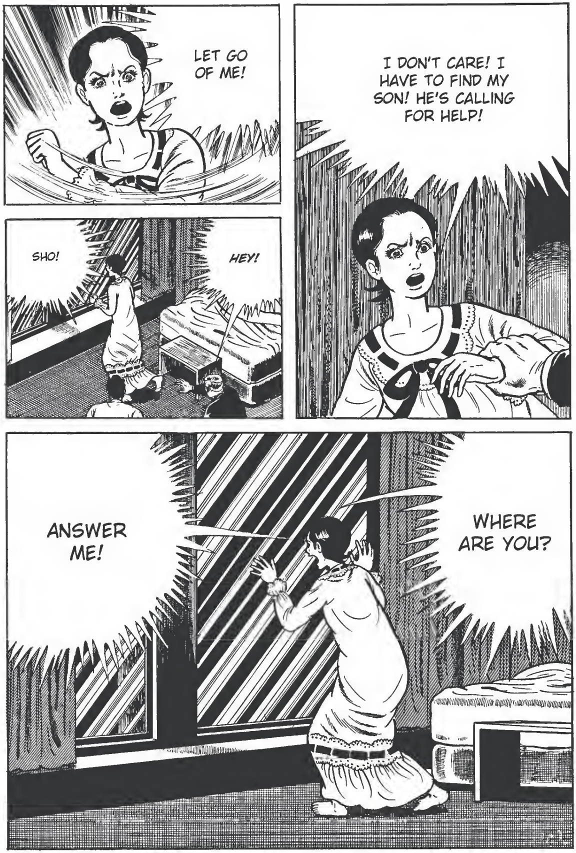

SHO!
SWSH
AIEEE!
WHERE'S SHO!?
KREE
WHERE IS HE!?
KLATA

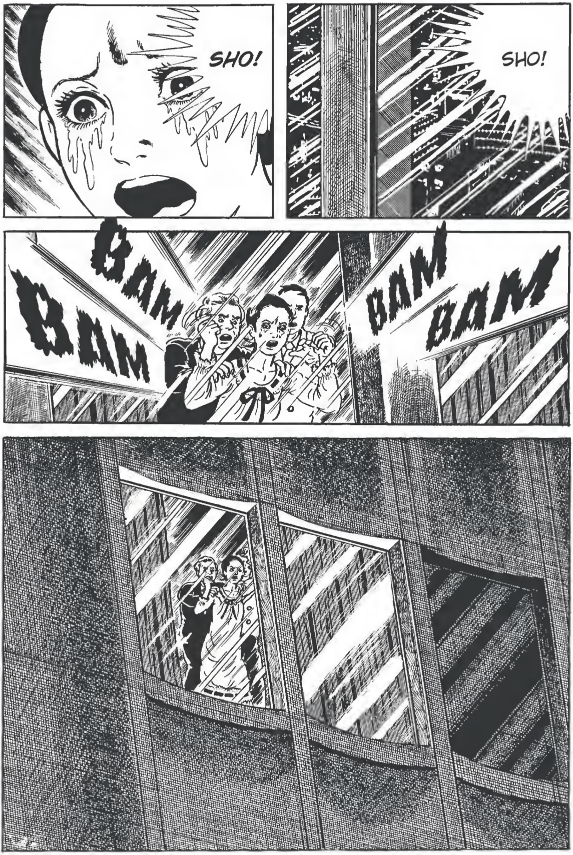

WHERE'D YOU HIDE HIM!?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO SHO? YOU *HID* HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW DARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EEEK!
FSH
AIEEE!
AAGHH!

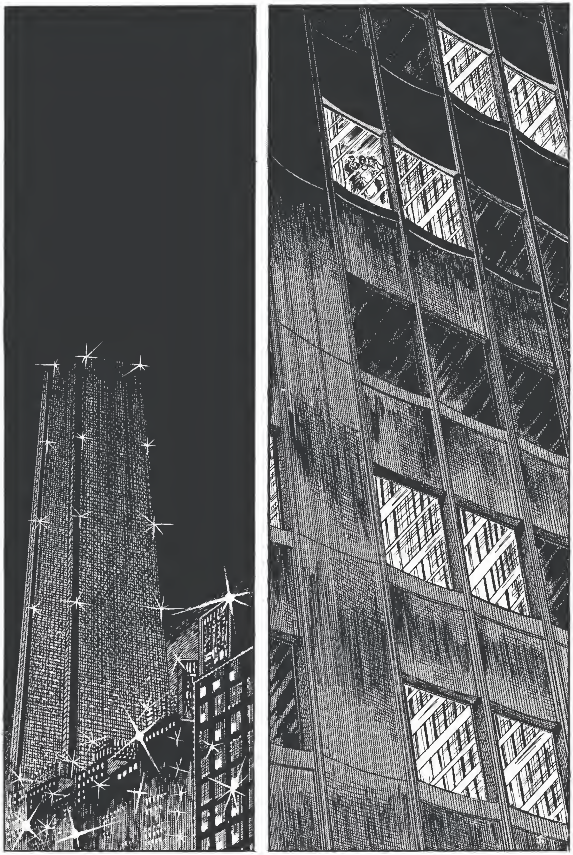

H-HELP ME!
AGGGH!
WHERE IS HE!?
YOU KIDNAPPED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?! BOTH OF YOU!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF HER!

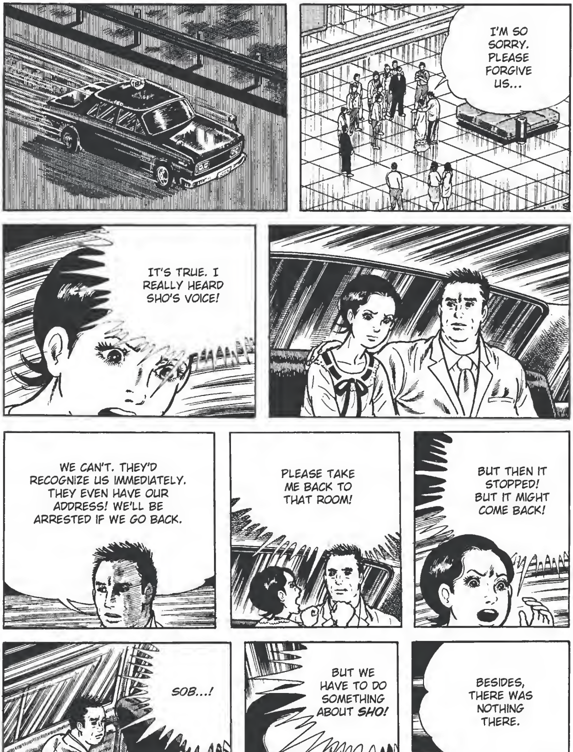

WHERE'S MY SON?! I HEARD HIM SCREAMING!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YOUR SON'S NOT HERE! WE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
NO! I HEARD HIS VOICE! HE SAID "HELP ME, MOM! I CAN'T BREATHE! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!"
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? YOU'RE THE ONES WHO TRIED TO KILL HIM!
UH...MOSHI MOSHI? HELLO? WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!
A JAPANESE WOMAN...A BURGLAR!
WHERE IS HE?! WHERE'S SHO?!
KLAK
4125

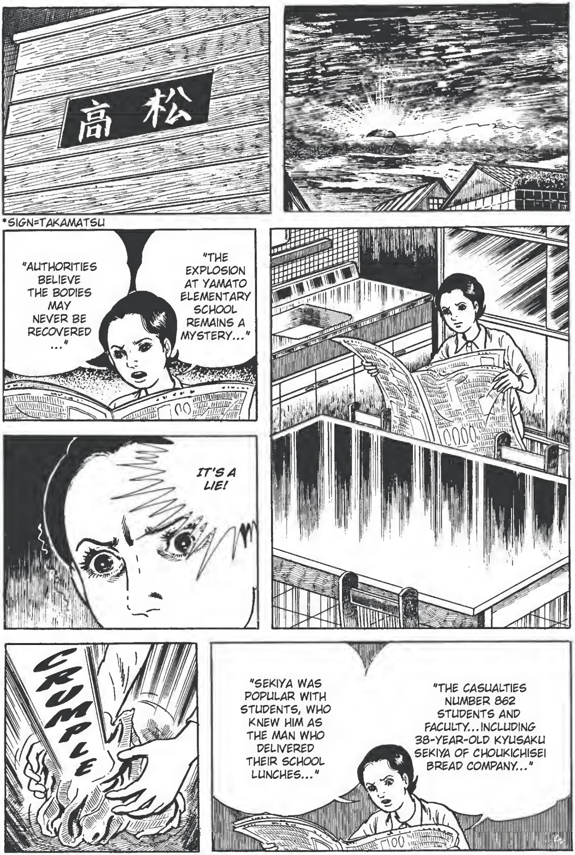

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM!?
GET THIS WOMAN OUT OF HERE!
SHE SAYS WE TRIED TO KILL HER SON.
IT'S *TRUE!* I HEARD HIS VOICE FROM THIS ROOM!
THAT'S ABSURD. MY WIFE WAS ASLEEP. I WAS WRITING. THE TV WASN'T EVEN ON. THE ROOM WAS TOTALLY QUIET.
WHO ARE YOU!? ARE YOU ANOTHER GUEST!?
NO, I'M NO GUEST! I'M HERE TO RESCUE MY SON!
THEN YOU'RE A TRESPASSER, AND YOU'RE HARASSING OUR GUESTS!
EVEN GUESTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO WALK AROUND THE HOTEL IN PAJAMAS!


LET GO OF ME!
I DON'T CARE! I HAVE TO FIND MY SON! HE'S CALLING FOR HELP!
SHO!
HEY!
ANSWER ME!
WHERE ARE YOU?


SHO!
SHO!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

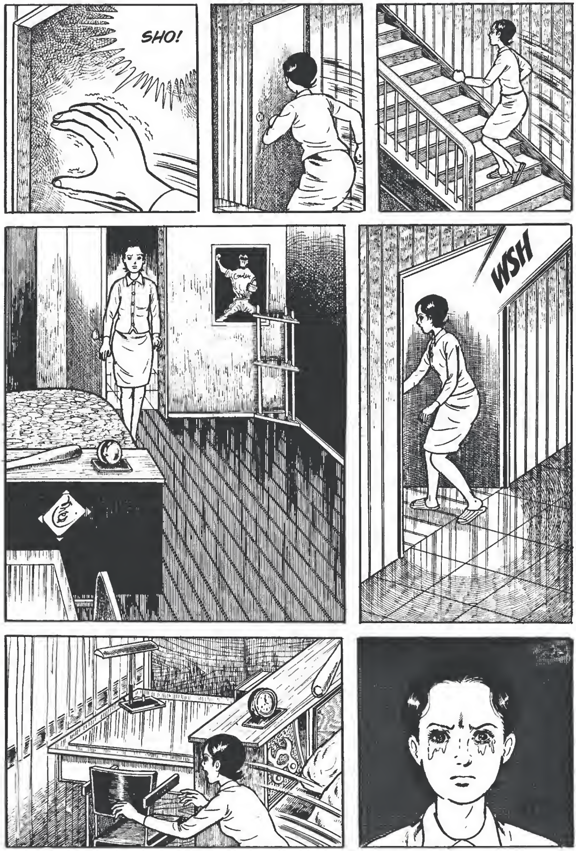


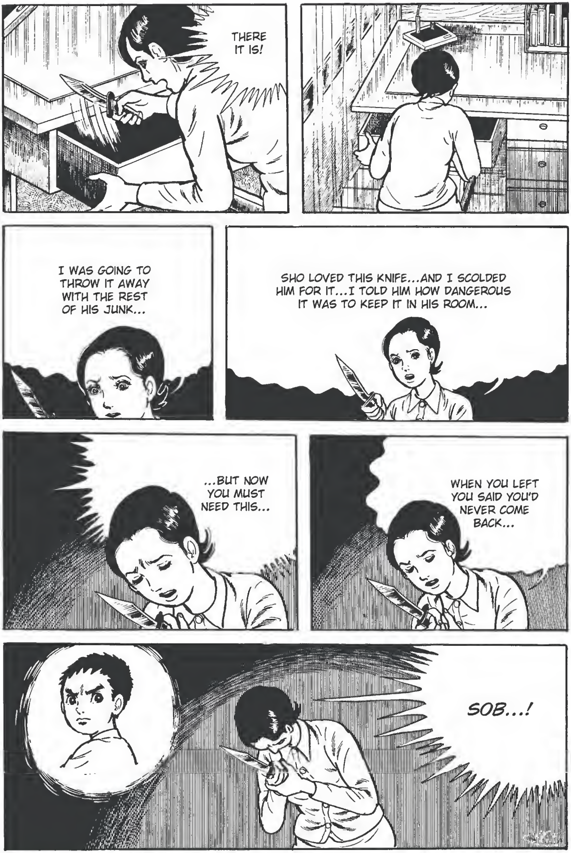

I'M SO SORRY. PLEASE FORGIVE US...
IT'S TRUE. I REALLY HEARD SHO'S VOICE!
BUT THEN IT STOPPED! BUT IT MIGHT COME BACK!
PLEASE TAKE ME BACK TO THAT ROOM!
WE CAN'T. THEY'D RECOGNIZE US IMMEDIATELY. THEY EVEN HAVE OUR ADDRESS! WE'LL BE ARRESTED IF WE GO BACK.
BESIDES, THERE WAS NOTHING THERE.
BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ***SHO!***
SOB...!

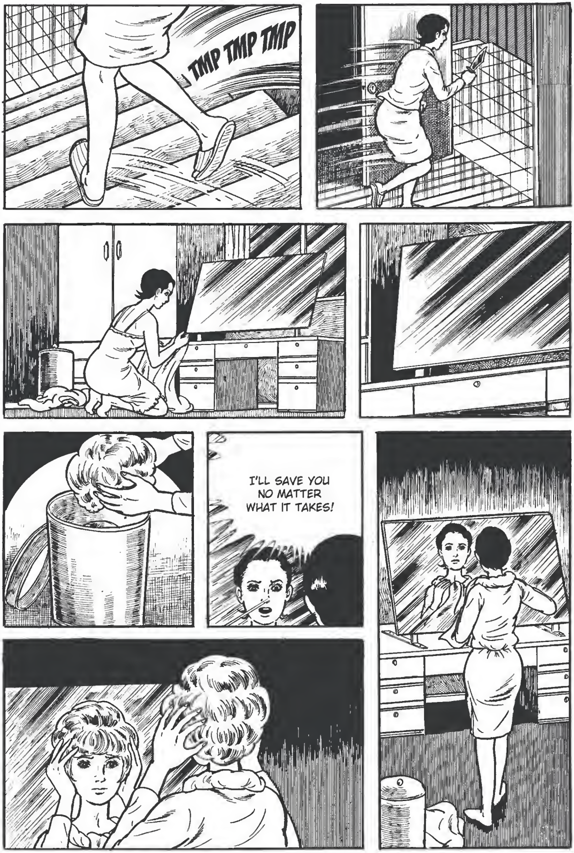


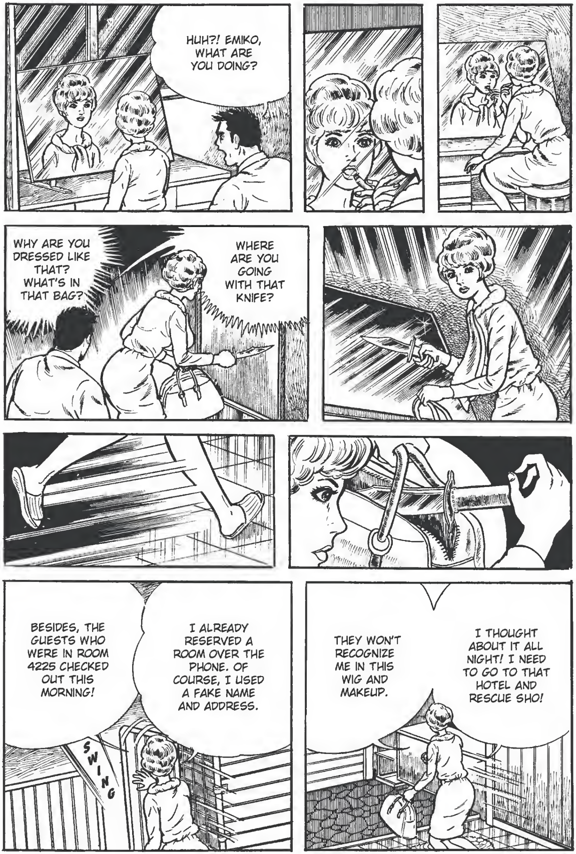
高松
"THE EXPLOSION AT YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REMAINS A MYSTERY..."
"AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE BODIES MAY NEVER BE RECOVERED..."
IT'S A LIE!
"THE CASUALTIES NUMBER 862 STUDENTS AND FACULTY...INCLUDING 38-YEAR-OLD KYUSAKU SEKIYA OF CHOUKICHISEI BREAD COMPANY..."
"SEKIYA WAS POPULAR WITH STUDENTS, WHO KNEW HIM AS THE MAN WHO DELIVERED THEIR SCHOOL LUNCHES..."
CRUMPLE

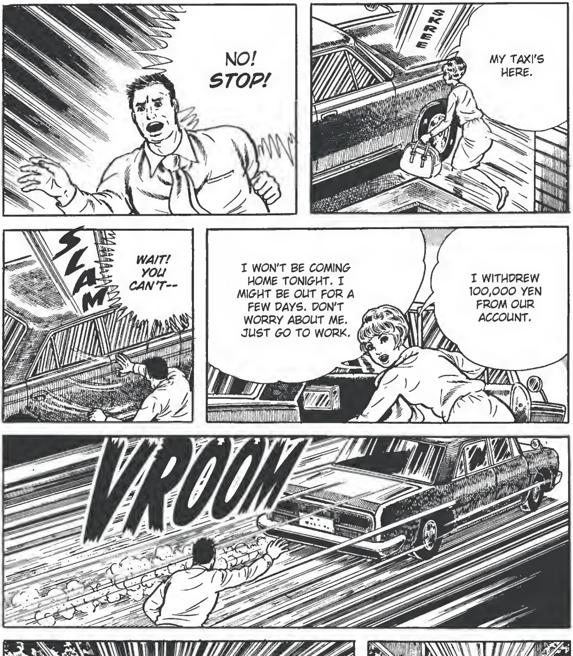
*SIGN=TAKAMATSU

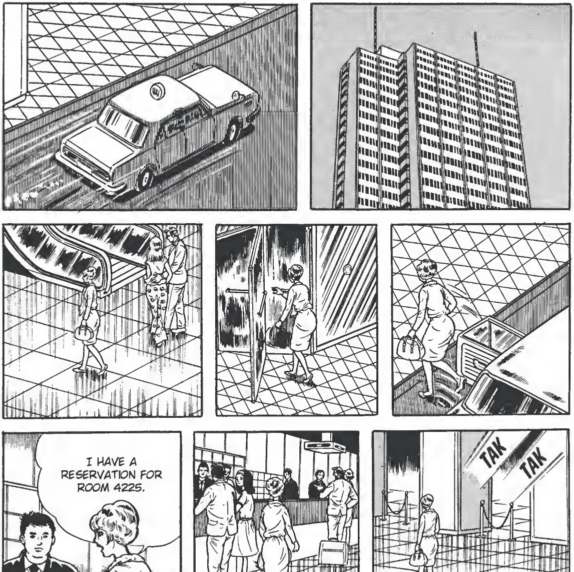

SHO!
WSH

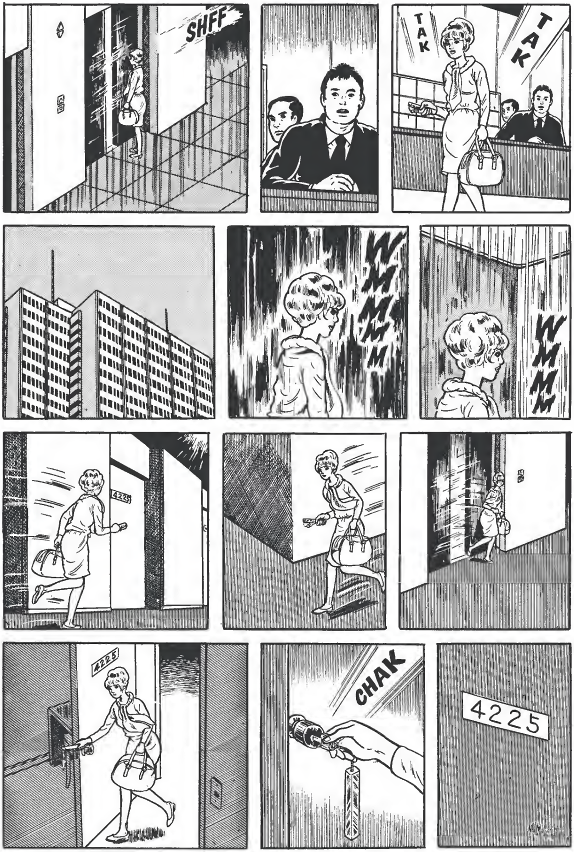

THERE IT IS!
I WAS GOING TO THROW IT AWAY WITH THE REST OF HIS JUNK...
SHO LOVED THIS KNIFE...AND I SCOLDED HIM FOR IT...I TOLD HIM HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS TO KEEP IT IN HIS ROOM...
...BUT NOW YOU MUST NEED THIS...
WHEN YOU LEFT YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER COME BACK...
SOB...!

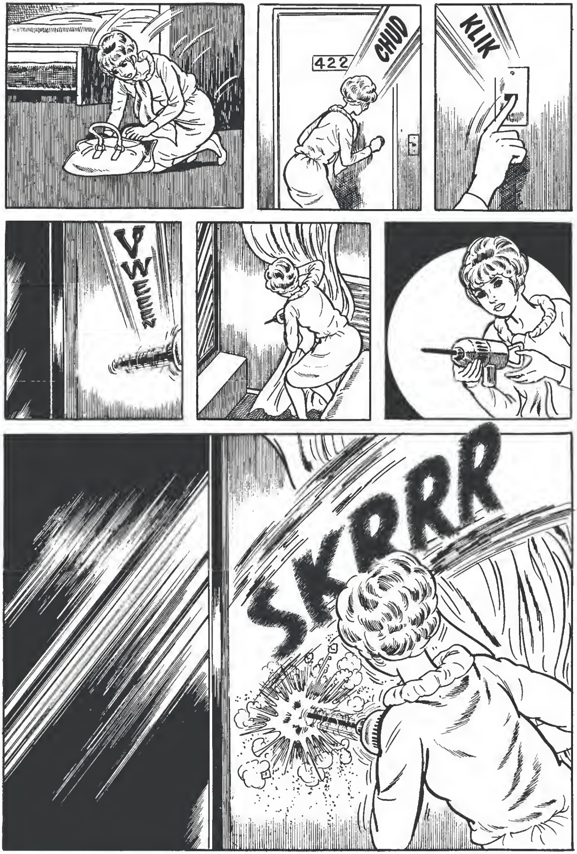

TMP TMP TMP
I'LL SAVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

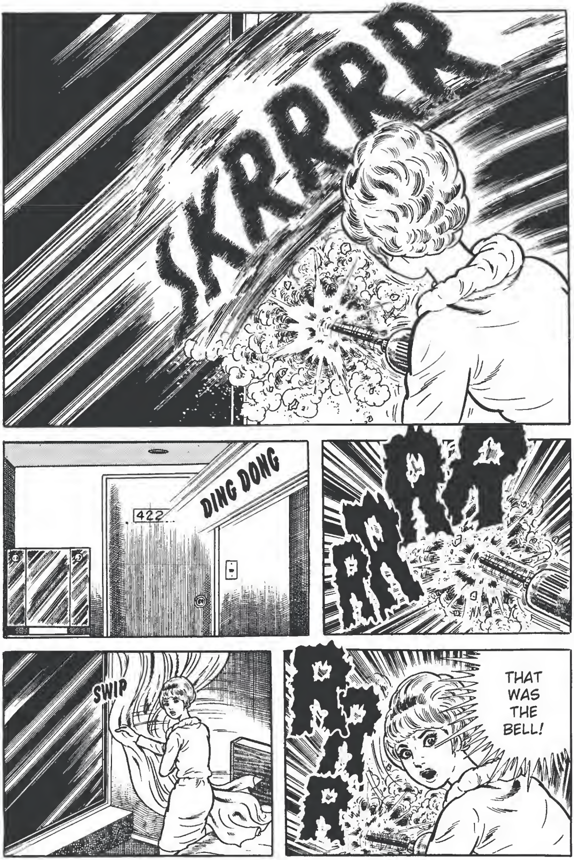

HUH?! EMIKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT KNIFE?
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT? WHAT'S IN THAT BAG?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT! I NEED TO GO TO THAT HOTEL AND RESCUE SHO!
THEY WON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS WIG AND MAKEUP.
I ALREADY RESERVED A ROOM OVER THE PHONE. OF COURSE, I USED A FAKE NAME AND ADDRESS.
BESIDES, THE GUESTS WHO WERE IN ROOM 4225 CHECKED OUT THIS MORNING!
SWING

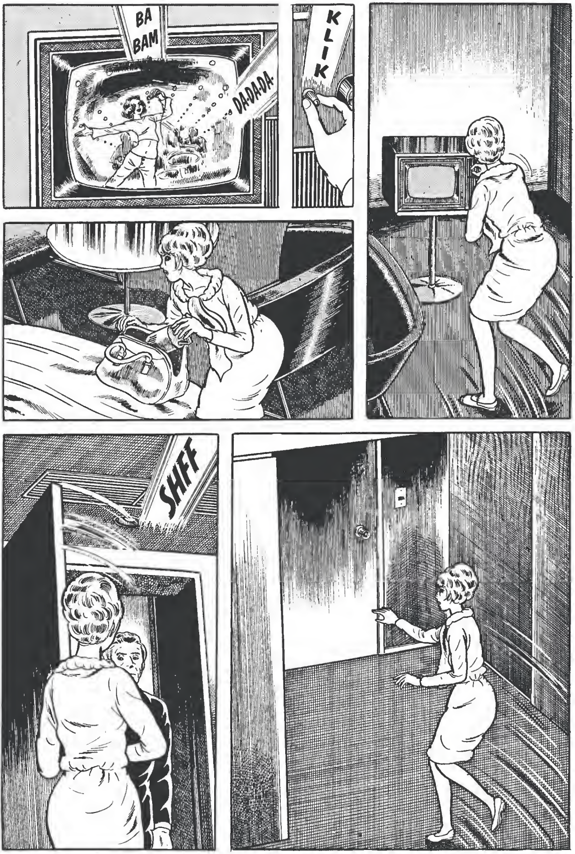

SKREE
MY TAXI'S HERE.
NO! STOP!
I WITHDREW 100,000 YEN FROM OUR ACCOUNT.
I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT. I MIGHT BE OUT FOR A FEW DAYS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. JUST GO TO WORK.
SLAM
WAIT! YOU CAN'T--
VROOM

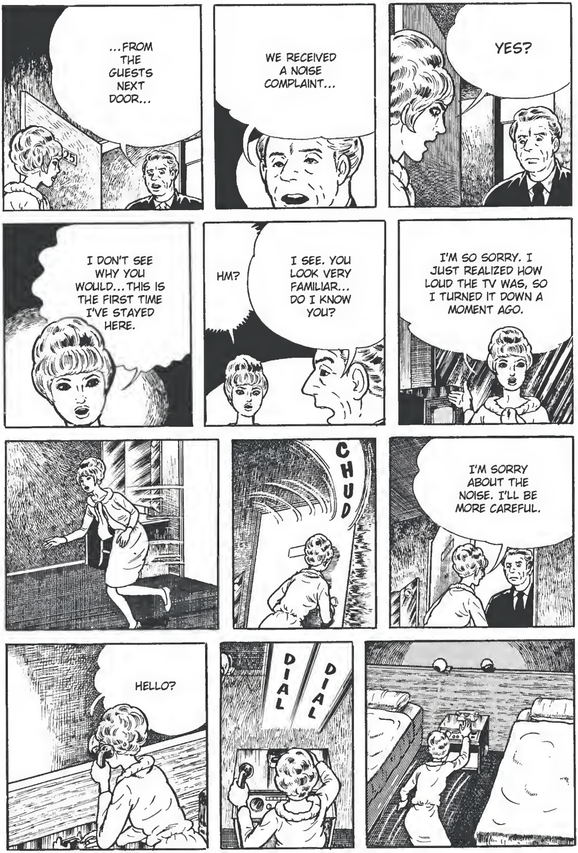

TAK
TAK
I HAVE A RESERVATION FOR ROOM 4225.
YES, MA'AM...I'LL NEED YOU TO CONFIRM YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PAYMENT.
THE BELL-BOY WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
NO THANKS. I KNOW WHERE IT IS. JUST GIVE ME THE KEY.

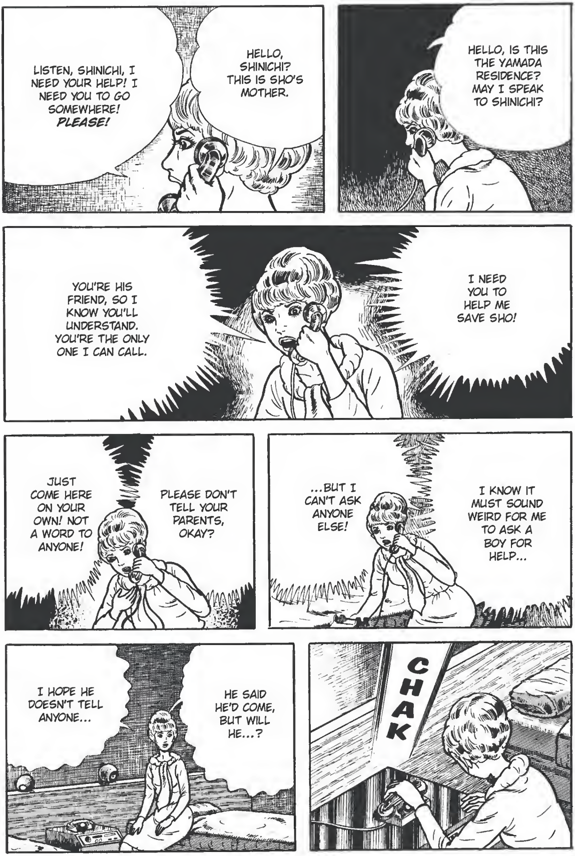

SHFF
TAK
TAK
WMMM
WMMM
4225
4225
CHAK
4225

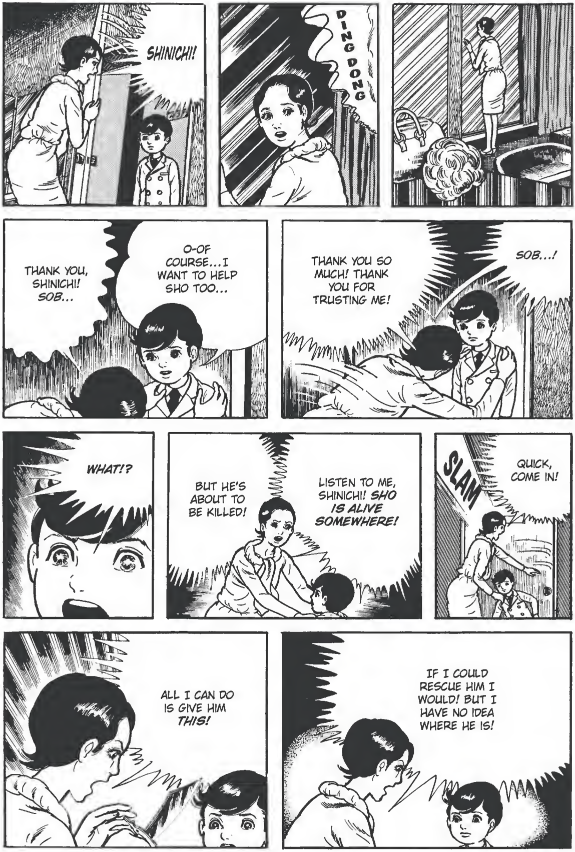

422
CHUD
KLIK
VWEEEN
SKRRR

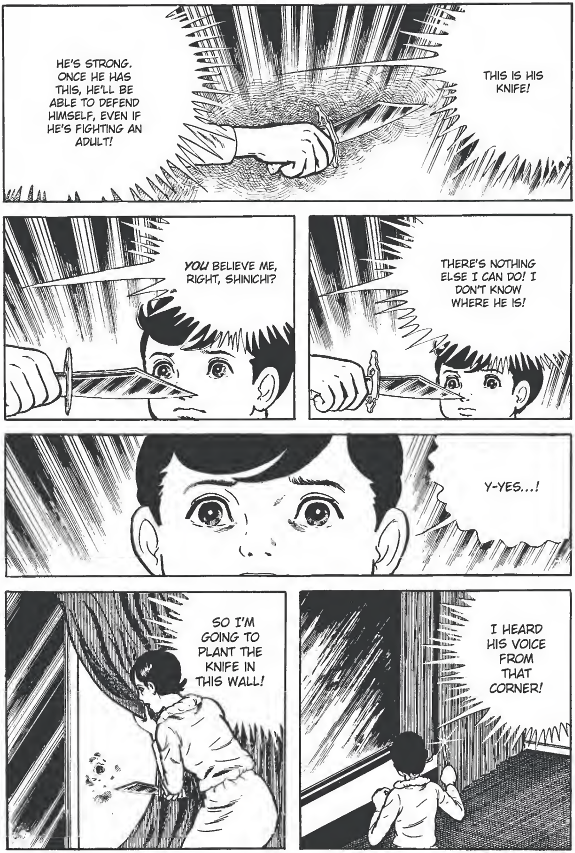

SKRRRR
RRRR
DING DONG
422
RRRR
THAT WAS THE BELL!
SWIP

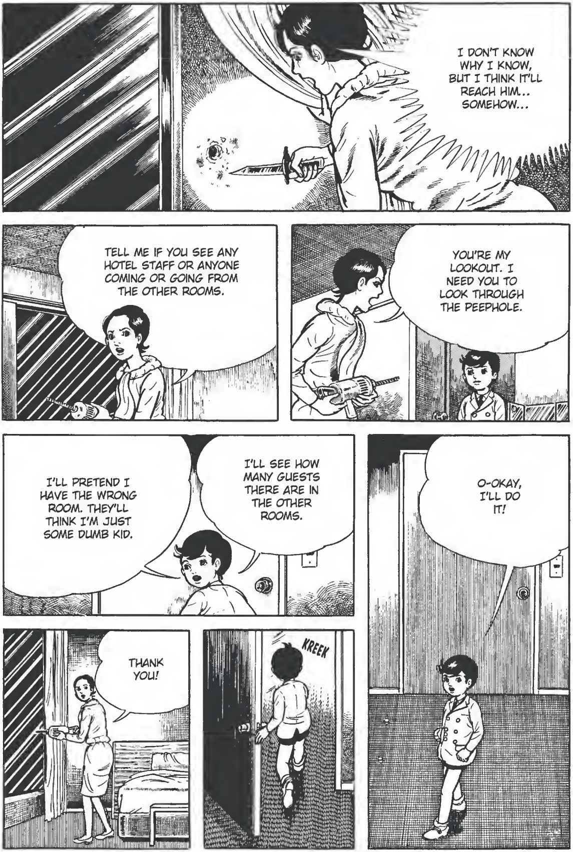

BA
BAM
DA-DA-DA
KLIK
SHFF

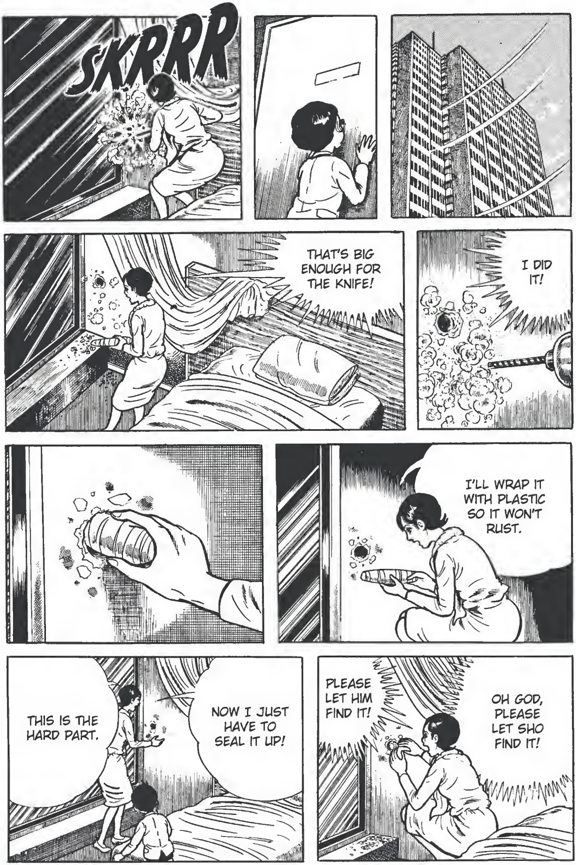

YES?
WE RECEIVED A NOISE COMPLAINT...
...FROM THE GUESTS NEXT DOOR...
25
I'M SO SORRY. I JUST REALIZED HOW LOUD THE TV WAS, SO I TURNED IT DOWN A MOMENT AGO.
I SEE. YOU LOOK VERY FAMILIAR... DO I KNOW YOU?
HM?
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU WOULD...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE STAYED HERE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.
CHUD
DIAL
DIAL
HELLO?

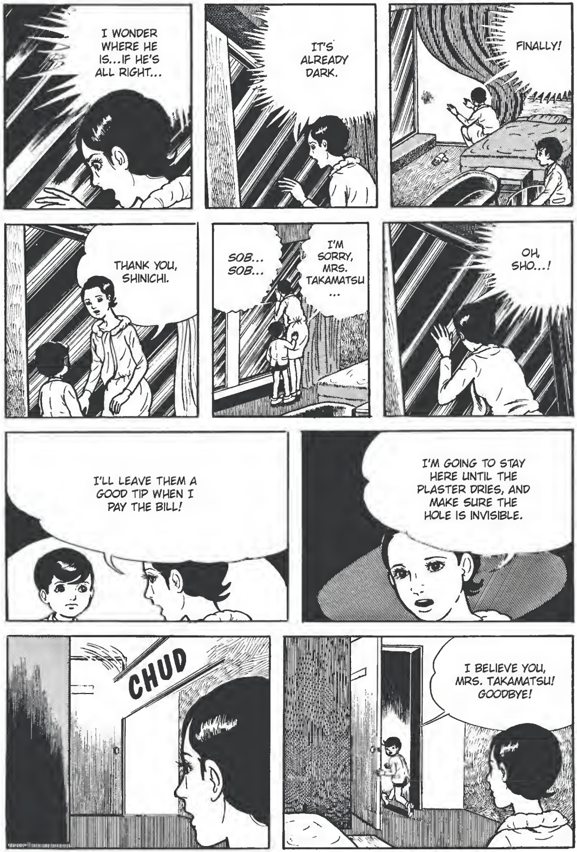

HELLO, IS THIS THE YAMADA RESIDENCE? MAY I SPEAK TO SHINICHI?
HELLO, SHINICHI? THIS IS SHO'S MOTHER.
LISTEN, SHINICHI, I NEED YOUR HELP! I NEED YOU TO GO SOMEWHERE! *PLEASE!*
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME SAVE SHO!
YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, SO I KNOW YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN CALL.
I KNOW IT MUST SOUND WEIRD FOR ME TO ASK A BOY FOR HELP...
...BUT I CAN'T ASK ANYONE ELSE!
PLEASE DON'T TELL YOUR PARENTS, OKAY?
JUST COME HERE ON YOUR OWN! NOT A WORD TO ANYONE!
CHAK
HE SAID HE'D COME, BUT WILL HE...?
I HOPE HE DOESN'T TELL ANYONE...

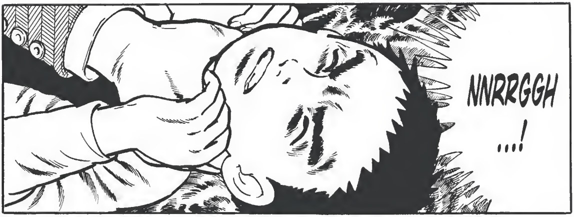

DING DONG
SHINICHI!
SOB...!
THANK YOU SO MUCH! THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME!
O-OF COURSE...I WANT TO HELP SHO TOO...
THANK YOU, SHINICHI! SOB...
SLAM
QUICK, COME IN!
LISTEN TO ME, SHINICHI! *SHO IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE!*
BUT HE'S ABOUT TO BE KILLED!
WHAT!?
IF I COULD RESCUE HIM I WOULD! BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS!
ALL I CAN DO IS GIVE HIM *THIS!*

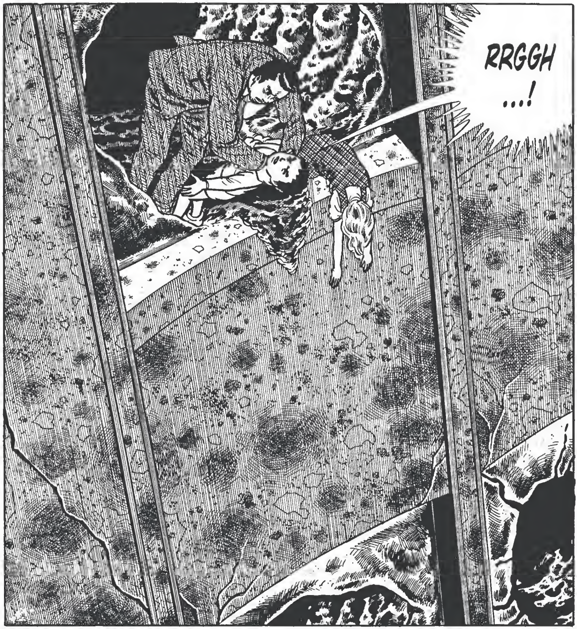

HE'S STRONG. ONCE HE HAS THIS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF, EVEN IF HE'S FIGHTING AN ADULT!
THIS IS HIS KNIFE!
YOU BELIEVE ME, RIGHT, SHINICHI?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO! I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!
Y-YES...!
SO I'M GOING TO PLANT THE KNIFE IN THIS WALL!
I HEARD HIS VOICE FROM THAT CORNER!

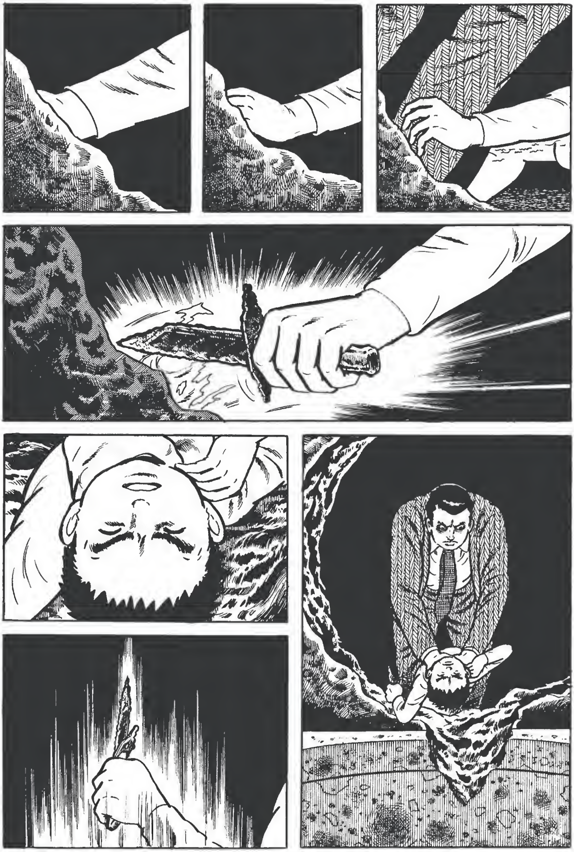

I DON'T KNOW WHY I KNOW, BUT I THINK IT'LL REACH HIM... SOMEHOW...
YOU'RE MY LOOKOUT. I NEED YOU TO LOOK THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE.
TELL ME IF YOU SEE ANY HOTEL STAFF OR ANYONE COMING OR GOING FROM THE OTHER ROOMS.
O-OKAY, I'LL DO IT!
I'LL SEE HOW MANY GUESTS THERE ARE IN THE OTHER ROOMS.
I'LL PRETEND I HAVE THE WRONG ROOM. THEY'LL THINK I'M JUST SOME DUMB KID.
KREEK
THANK YOU!

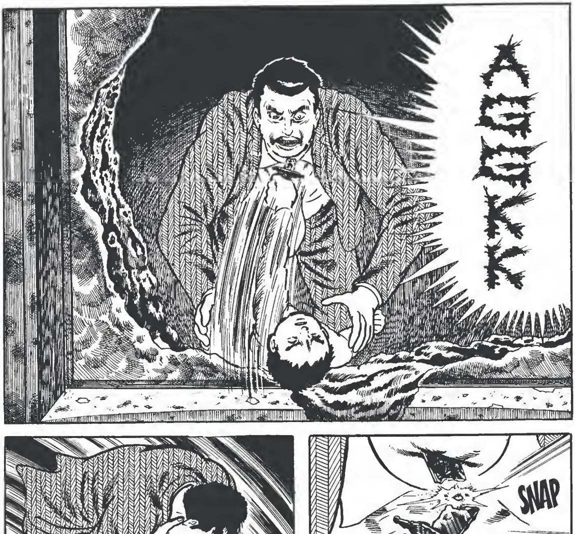

SKRRR
THAT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR THE KNIFE!
I DID IT!
I'LL WRAP IT WITH PLASTIC SO IT WON'T RUST.
THIS IS THE HARD PART.
NOW I JUST HAVE TO SEAL IT UP!
PLEASE LET HIM FIND IT!
OH GOD, PLEASE LET SHO FIND IT!

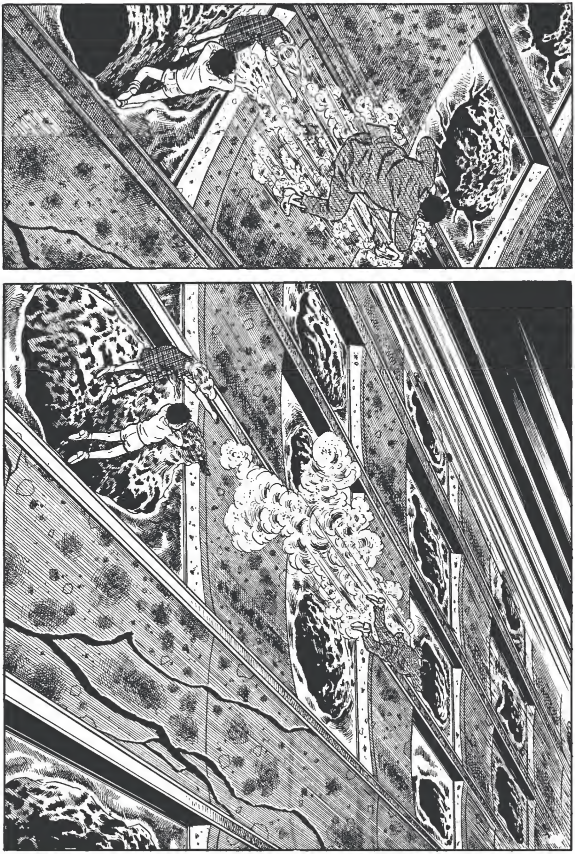

I WONDER WHERE HE IS...IF HE'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S ALREADY DARK.
FINALLY!
THANK YOU, SHINICHI.
SOB... SOB...
I'M SORRY, MRS. TAKAMATSU ...
OH, SHO...!
I'LL LEAVE THEM A GOOD TIP WHEN I PAY THE BILL!
I'M GOING TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE PLASTER DRIES, AND MAKE SURE THE HOLE IS INVISIBLE.
CHUD
I BELIEVE YOU, MRS. TAKAMATSU! GOODBYE!

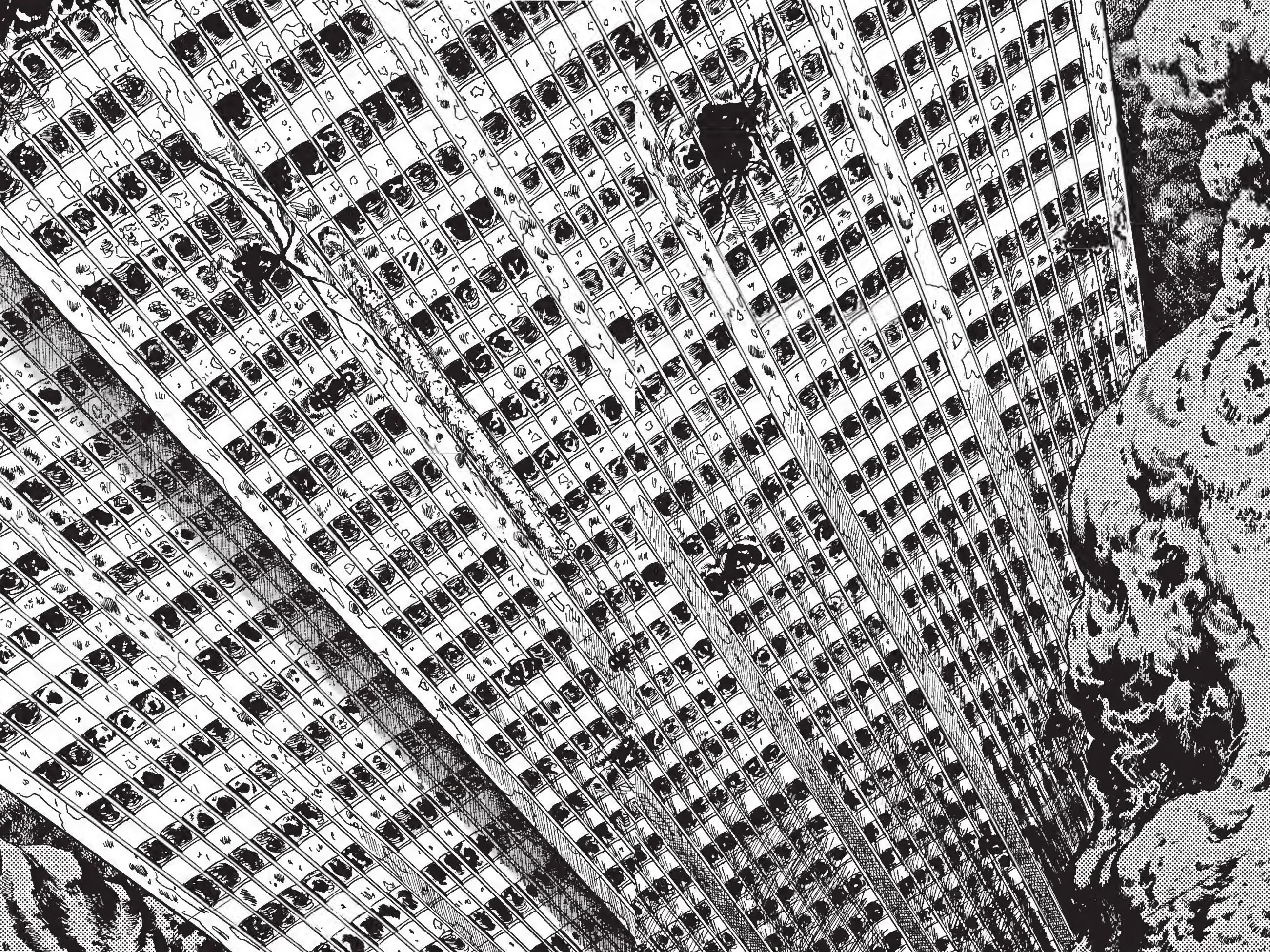

NNRRGGH
...!

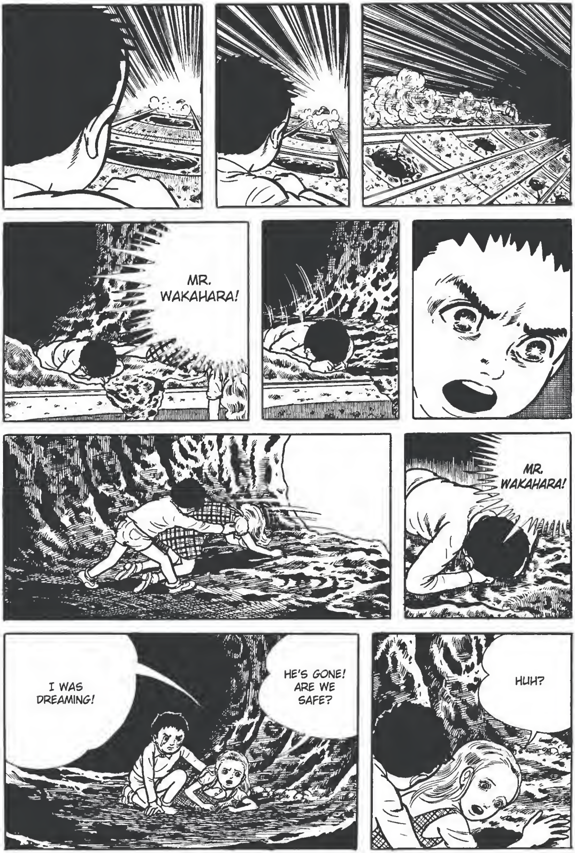

RRGGH
...!

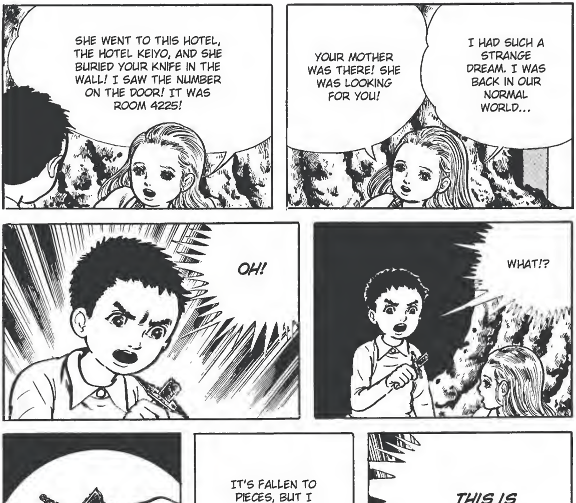


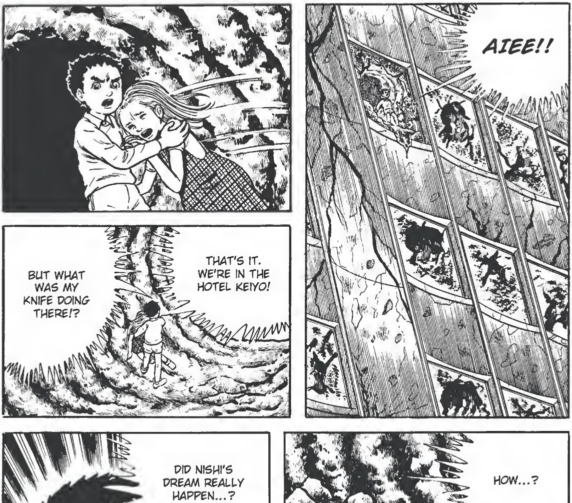

AGGKK
SNAP
SKRSH

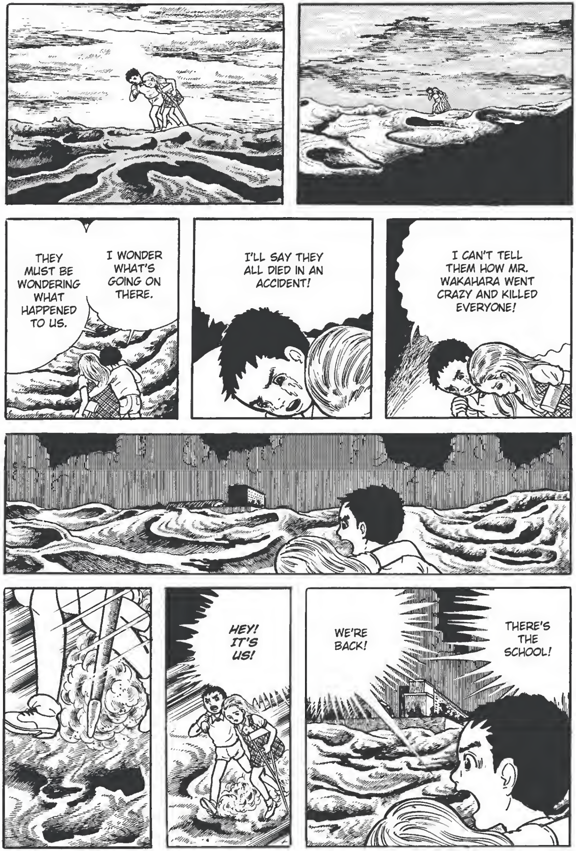


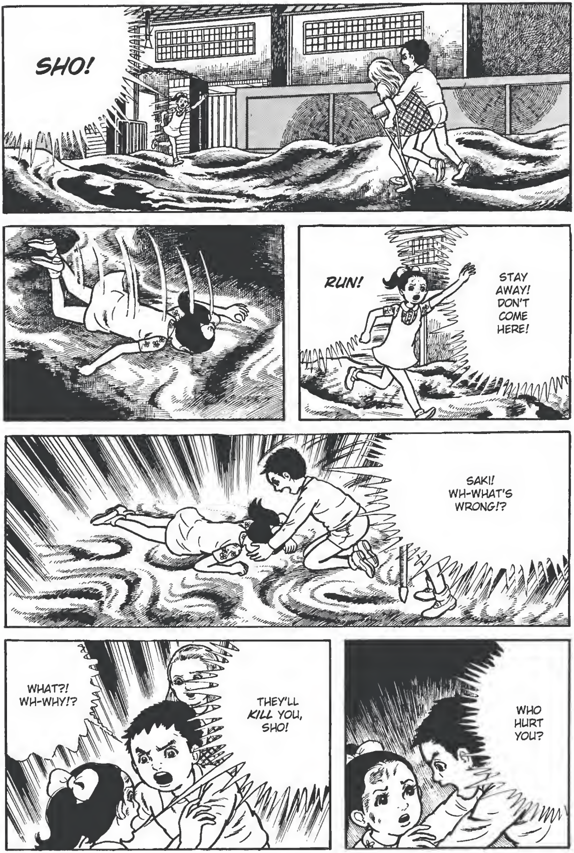


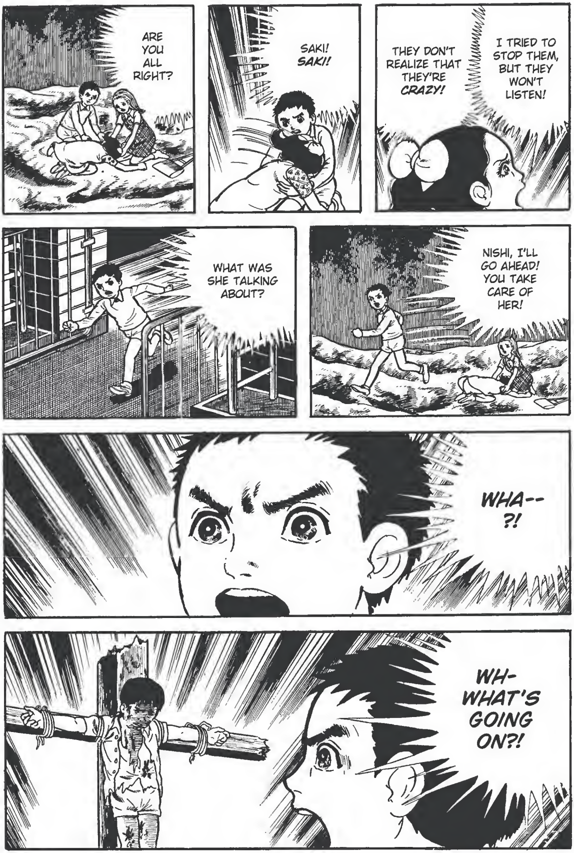

MR. WAKAHARA!
MR. WAKAHARA!
HUH?
HE'S GONE! ARE WE SAFE?
I WAS DREAMING!


I HAD SUCH A STRANGE DREAM. I WAS BACK IN OUR NORMAL WORLD...
YOUR MOTHER WAS THERE! SHE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
SHE WENT TO THIS HOTEL, THE HOTEL KEIYO, AND SHE BURIED YOUR KNIFE IN THE WALL! I SAW THE NUMBER ON THE DOOR! IT WAS ROOM 4225!
WHAT!?
OH!
THIS IS MY KNIFE!
IT'S FALLEN TO PIECES, BUT I KNOW IT'S MINE!
WH... WHERE ARE WE!?


AIEE!!
THAT'S IT. WE'RE IN THE HOTEL KEIYO!
BUT WHAT WAS MY KNIFE DOING THERE!?
HOW...?
DID NISHI'S DREAM REALLY HAPPEN...?
UNBELIEVABLE...
SO THIS REALLY IS THE FUTURE!

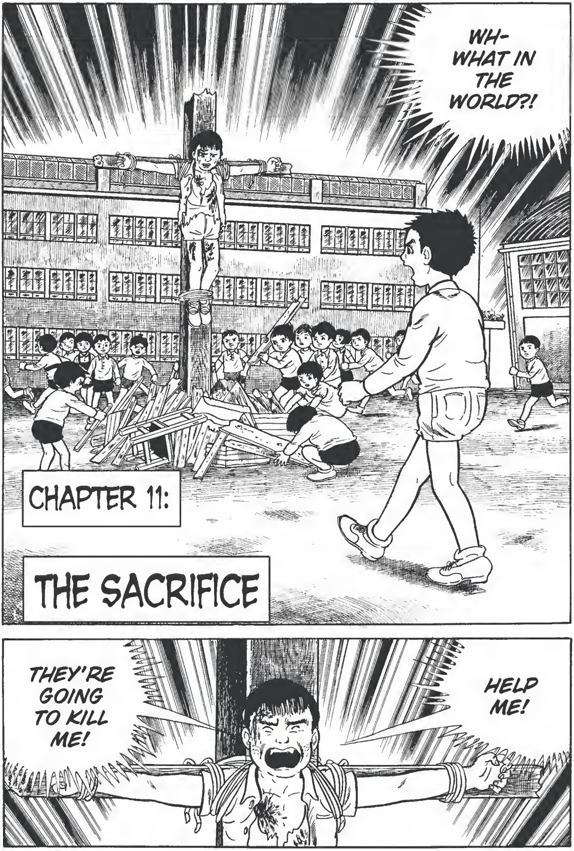

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON THERE.
THEY MUST BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO US.
I'LL SAY THEY ALL DIED IN AN ACCIDENT!
I CAN'T TELL THEM HOW MR. WAKAHARA WENT CRAZY AND KILLED EVERYONE!
HEY! IT'S US!
THERE'S THE SCHOOL!
WE'RE BACK!

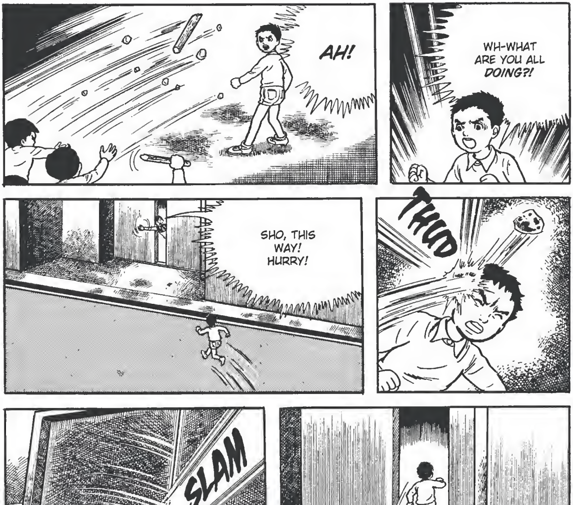

SHO!
STAY AWAY! DON'T COME HERE!
RUN!
SAKI! WH-WHAT'S WRONG!?
WHO HURT YOU?
THEY'LL *KILL* YOU, SHO!
WHAT?! WH-WHY!?

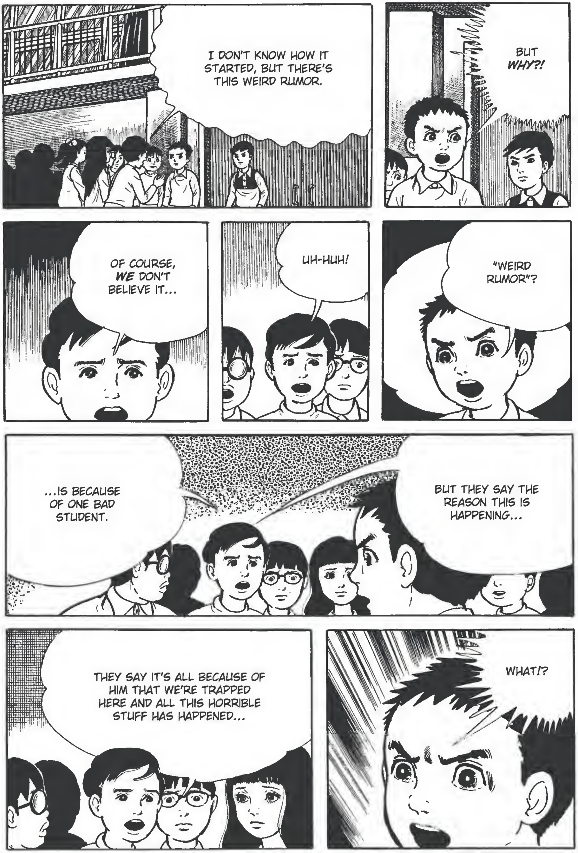

I TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN!
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE *CRAZY!*
SAKI! ***SAKI!***
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NISHI, I'LL GO AHEAD! YOU TAKE CARE OF HER!
WHAT WAS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
WHA-- ?!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

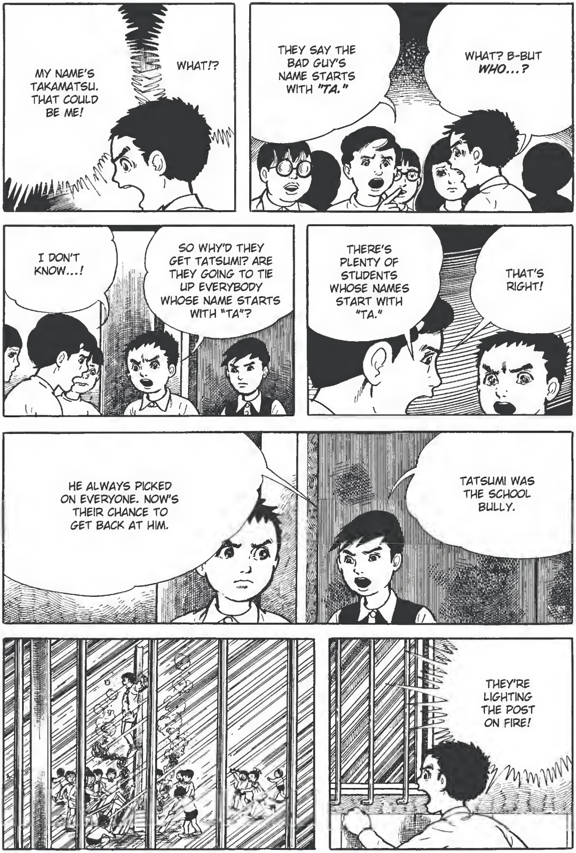
CHAPTER 11:

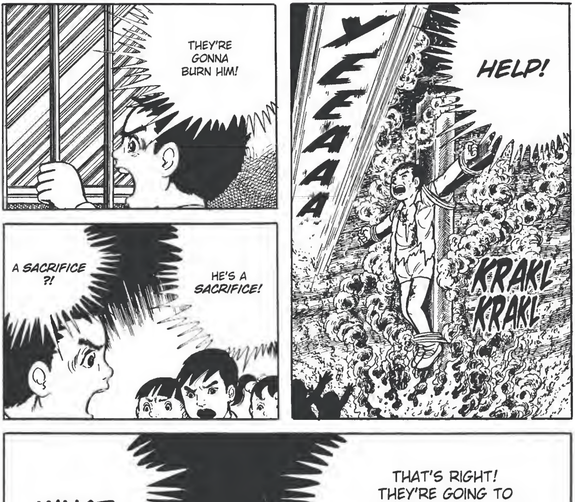
THE SACRIFICE

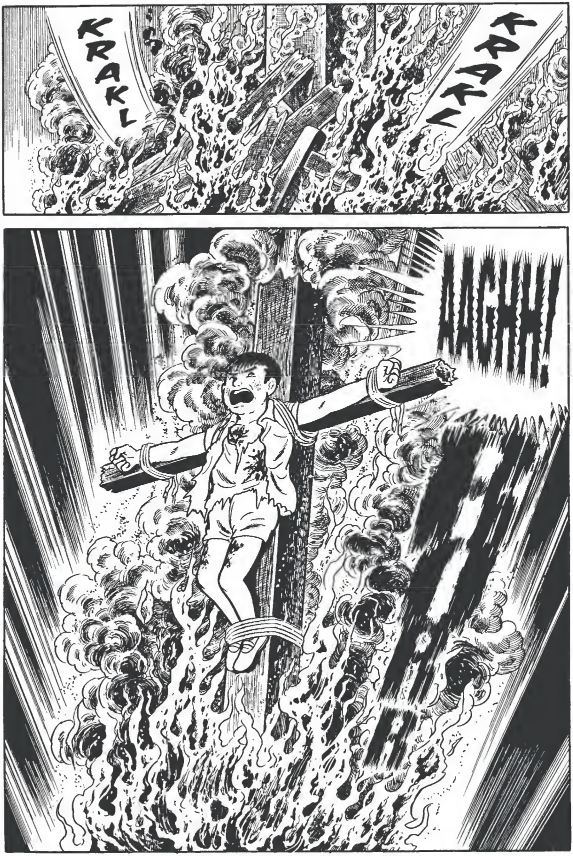

WH- WHAT IN THE WORLD?!
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!
HELP ME!

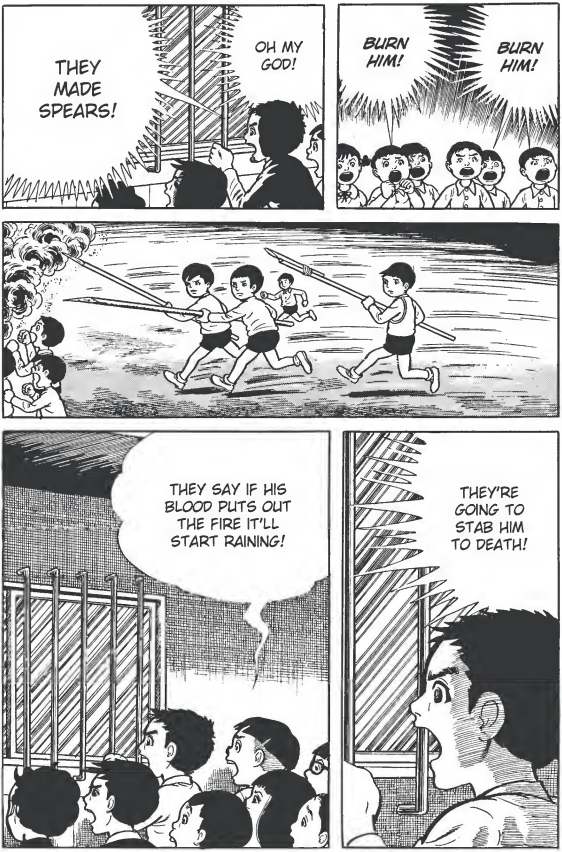

WH-WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?!
AH!
THUD
SHO, THIS WAY! HURRY!
SLAM
WHAT IS THIS!?
THE LOWER GRADERS GOT TATSUMI FROM CLASS 2.
THEY'LL HURT US IF WE INTERFERE.

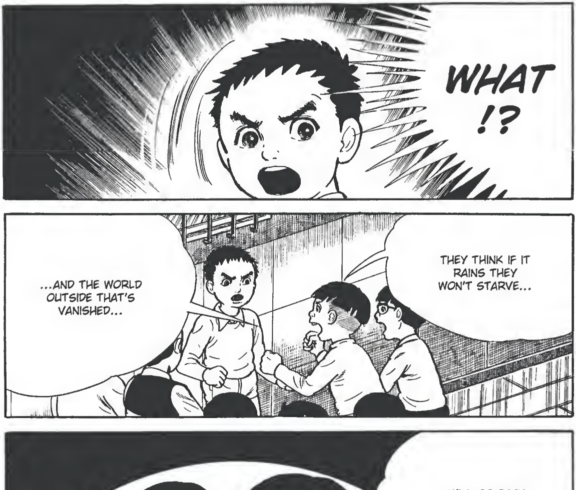

BUT WHY?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT STARTED, BUT THERE'S THIS WEIRD RUMOR.
"WEIRD RUMOR"?
UH-HUH!
OF COURSE, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT...
BUT THEY SAY THE REASON THIS IS HAPPENING...
...IS BECAUSE OF ONE BAD STUDENT.
WHAT!?
THEY SAY IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF HIM THAT WE'RE TRAPPED HERE AND ALL THIS HORRIBLE STUFF HAS HAPPENED...

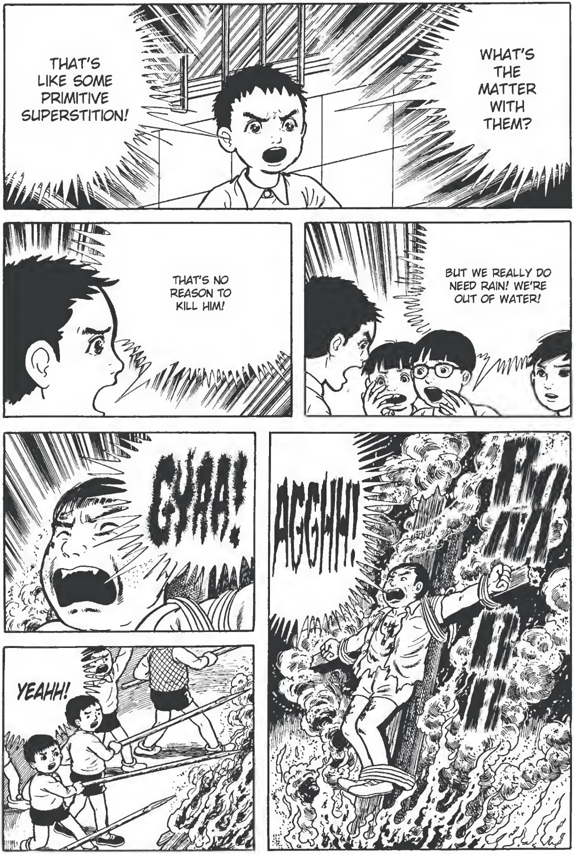

MY NAME'S TAKAMATSU. THAT COULD BE ME!
WHAT!?
THEY SAY THE BAD GUY'S NAME STARTS WITH *"TA."*
WHAT? B-BUT *WHO...?*
I DON'T KNOW...!
SO WHY'D THEY GET TATSUMI? ARE THEY GOING TO TIE UP EVERYBODY WHOSE NAME STARTS WITH "TA"?
THERE'S PLENTY OF STUDENTS WHOSE NAMES START WITH "TA."
THAT'S RIGHT!
HE ALWAYS PICKED ON EVERYONE. NOW'S THEIR CHANCE TO GET BACK AT HIM.
TATSUMI WAS THE SCHOOL BULLY.
THEY'RE LIGHTING THE POST ON FIRE!

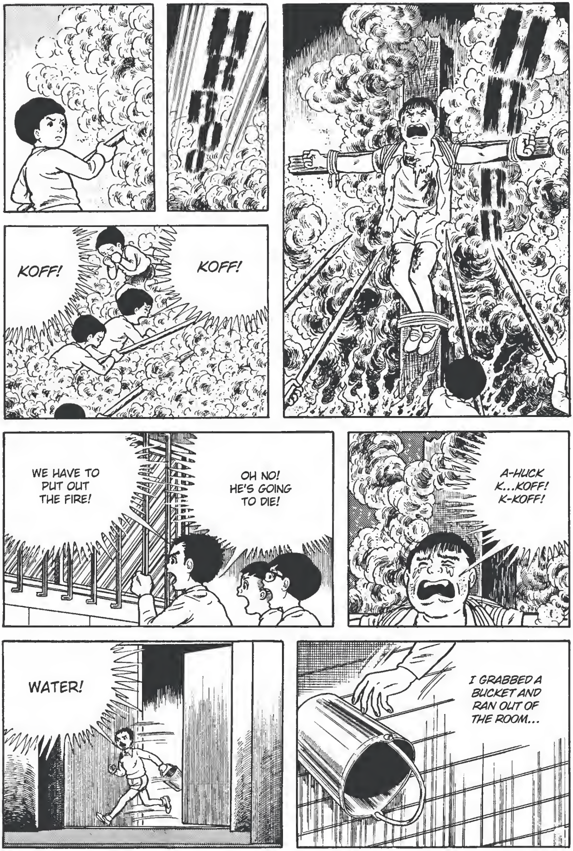

THEY'RE GONNA BURN HIM!
HE'S A SACRIFICE!
A SACRIFICE ?!
YEEAAAA
HELP!
KRAKL KRAKL
WHAT !?
THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'RE GOING TO BURN HIM ALIVE...AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO STAB HIM TO FINISH HIM OFF!

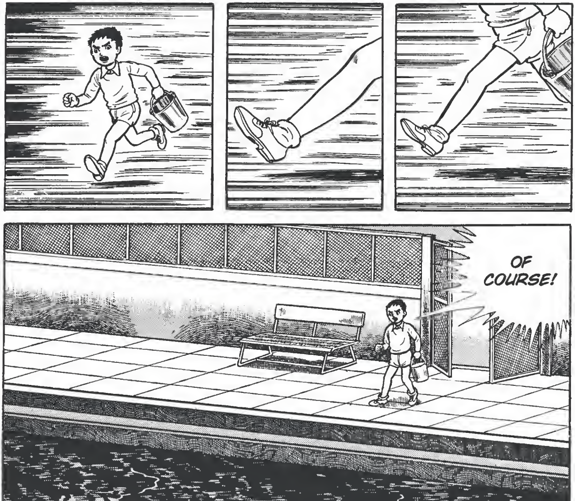

KRAKL
KRAKL
AAGHH!

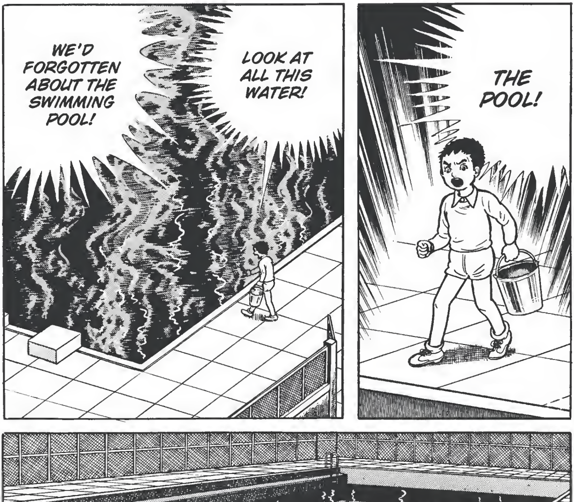

THEY MADE SPEARS!
OH MY GOD!
BURN HIM!
BURN HIM!
THEY SAY IF HIS BLOOD PUTS OUT THE FIRE IT'LL START RAINING!
THEY'RE GOING TO STAB HIM TO DEATH!

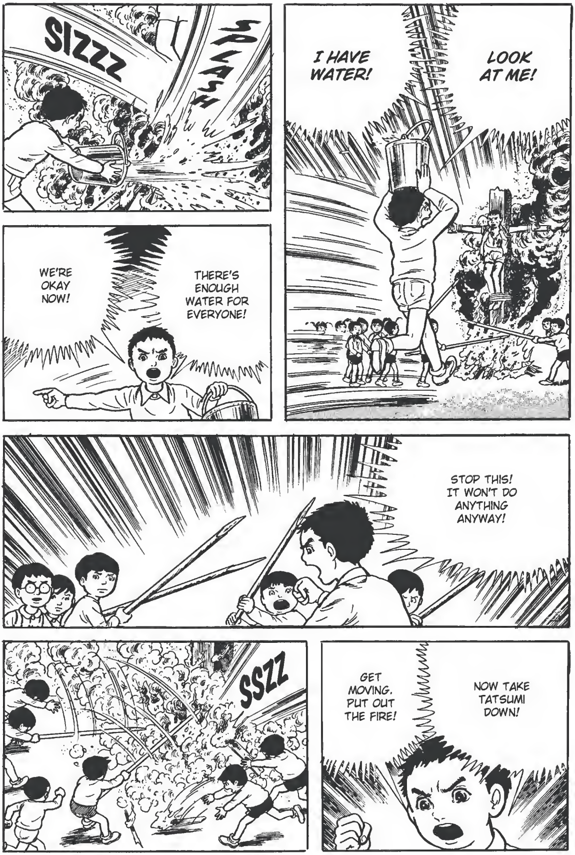

WHAT !?
THEY THINK IF IT RAINS THEY WON'T STARVE...
...AND THE WORLD OUTSIDE THAT'S VANISHED...
...WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL...
TH- THAT'S CRAZY!

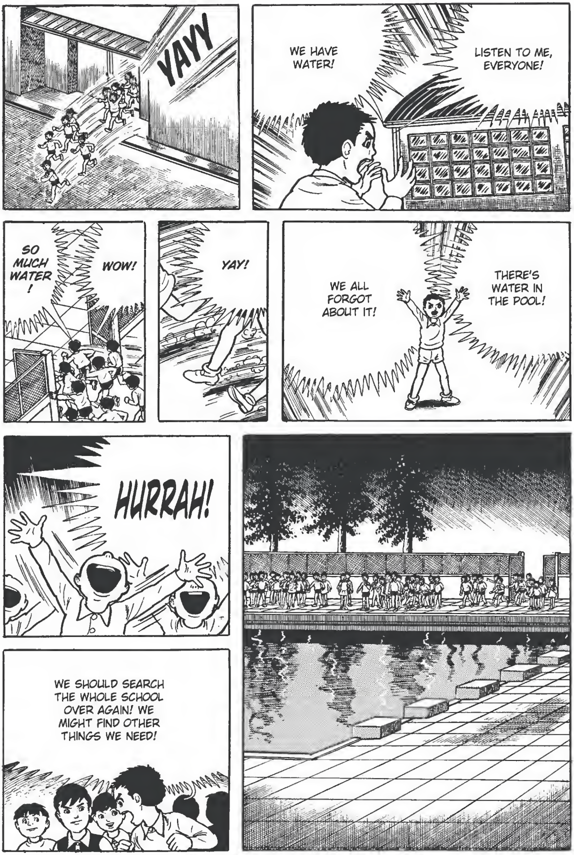

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?
THAT'S LIKE SOME PRIMITIVE SUPERSTITION!
BUT WE REALLY DO NEED RAIN! WE'RE OUT OF WATER!
THAT'S NO REASON TO KILL HIM!
AGGHH!
GYAA!
YEAHH!

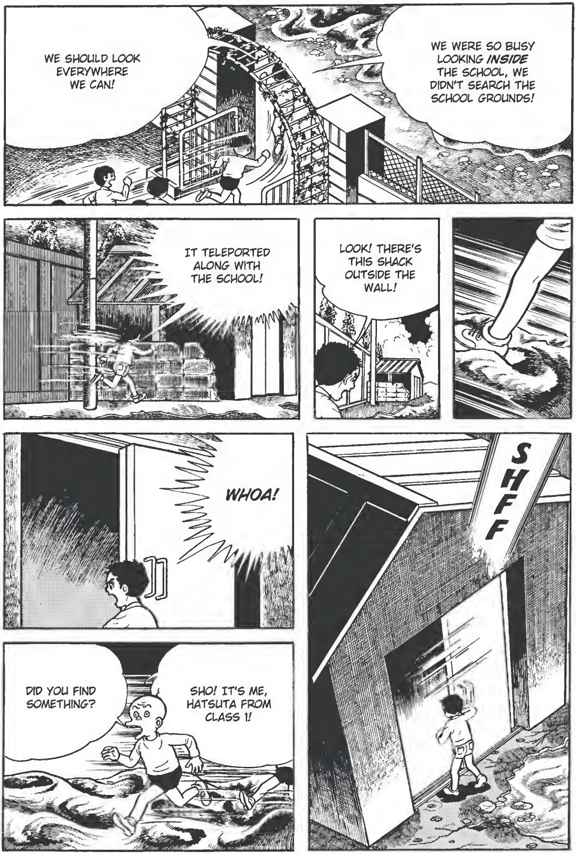

KOFF!
KOFF!
WE HAVE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE!
OH NO! HE'S GOING TO DIE!
A-HUCK K...KOFF! K-KOFF!
WATER!
I GRABBED A BUCKET AND RAN OUT OF THE ROOM...

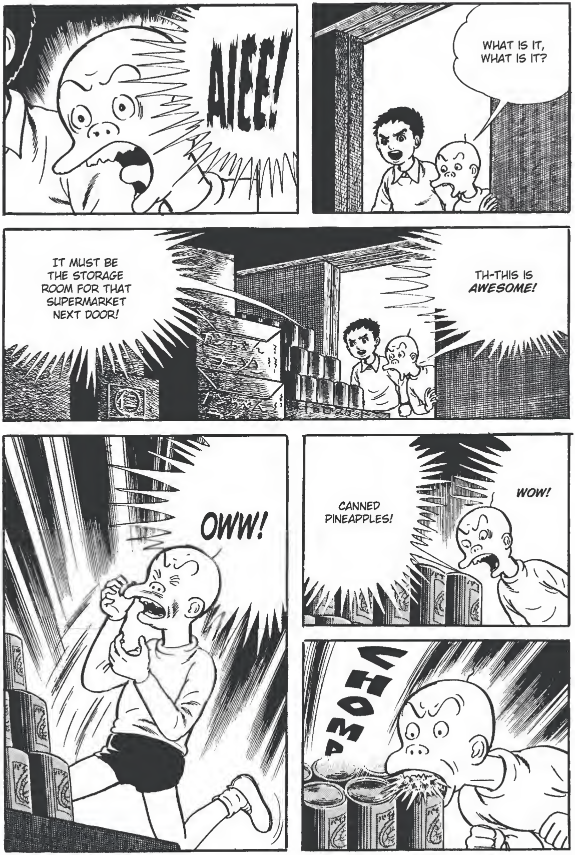

OF COURSE!

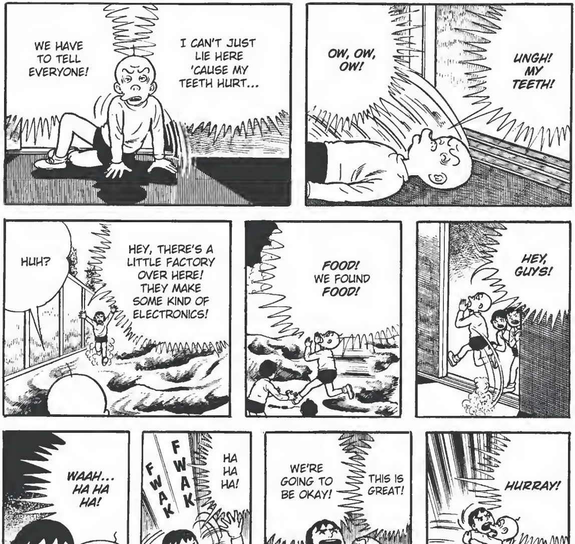

WE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SWIMMING POOL!
LOOK AT ALL THIS WATER!
THE POOL!
LOOK, EVERYBODY!
HEY! LOOK!
SPLASH

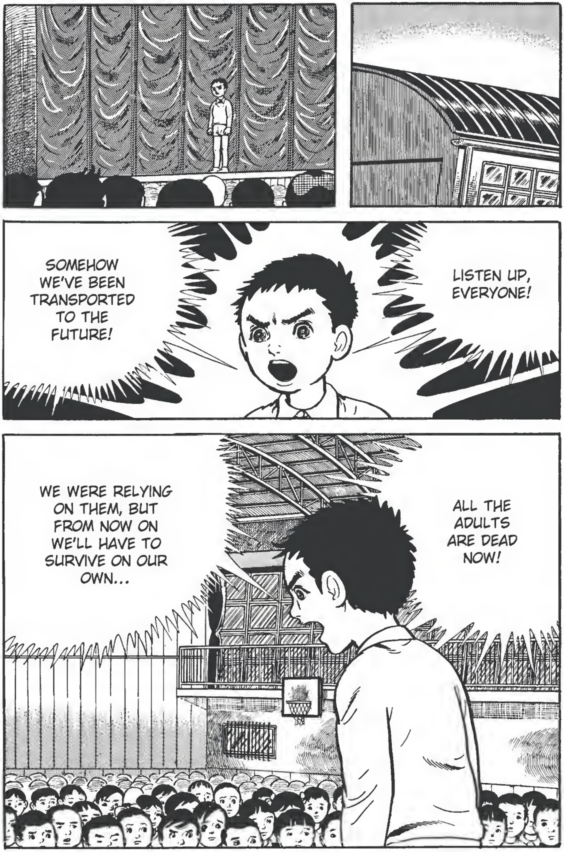

SIZZZ
SPLASH
WE'RE OKAY NOW!
THERE'S ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE!
I HAVE WATER!
LOOK AT ME!
STOP THIS! IT WON'T DO ANYTHING ANYWAY!
SSZZ
GET MOVING. PUT OUT THE FIRE!
NOW TAKE TATSUMI DOWN!

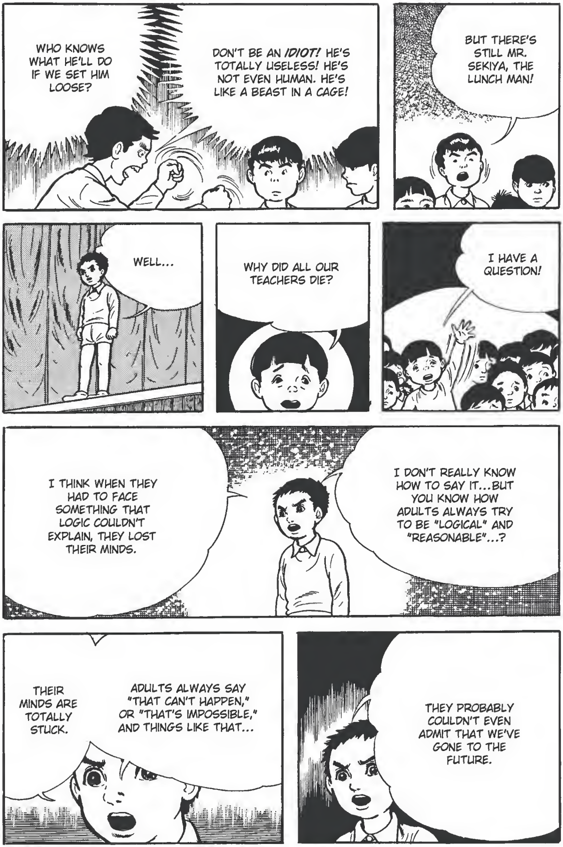

LISTEN TO ME, EVERYONE!
WE HAVE WATER!
YAYY
THERE'S WATER IN THE POOL!
WE ALL FORGOT ABOUT IT!
YAY!
WOW!
SO MUCH WATER!
HURRAH!
WE SHOULD SEARCH THE WHOLE SCHOOL OVER AGAIN! WE MIGHT FIND OTHER THINGS WE NEED!

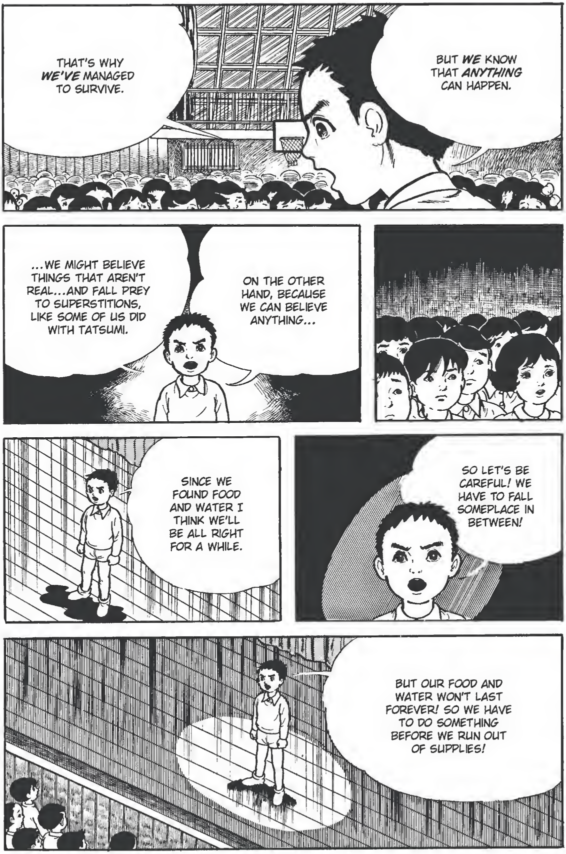

WE WERE SO BUSY LOOKING *INSIDE* THE SCHOOL, WE DIDN'T SEARCH THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!
WE SHOULD LOOK EVERYWHERE WE CAN!
LOOK! THERE'S THIS SHACK OUTSIDE THE WALL!
IT TELEPORTED ALONG WITH THE SCHOOL!
SHFF
WHOA!
SHO! IT'S ME, HATSUTA FROM CLASS 1!
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?

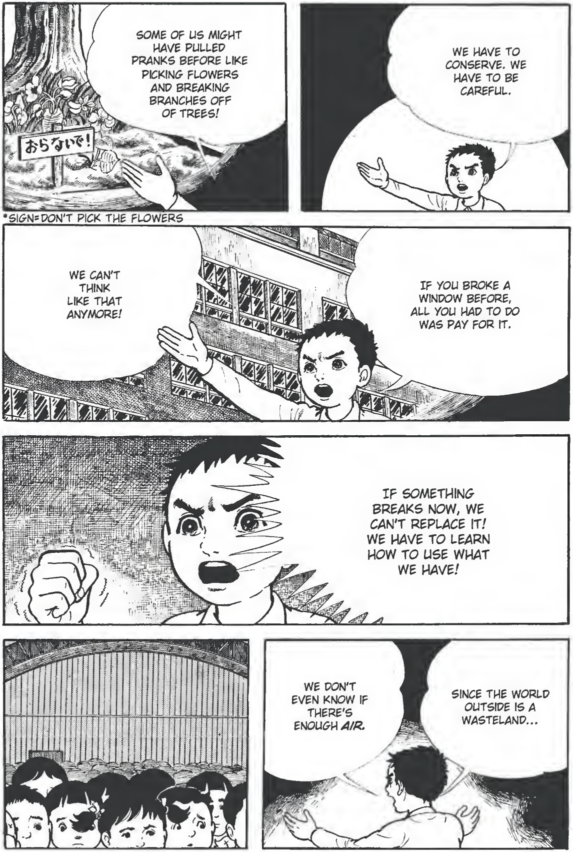

WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT?
AIEE!
TH-THIS IS *AWESOME!*
IT MUST BE THE STORAGE ROOM FOR THAT SUPERMARKET NEXT DOOR!
WOW!
CANNED PINEAPPLES!
CHOMP
OWW!

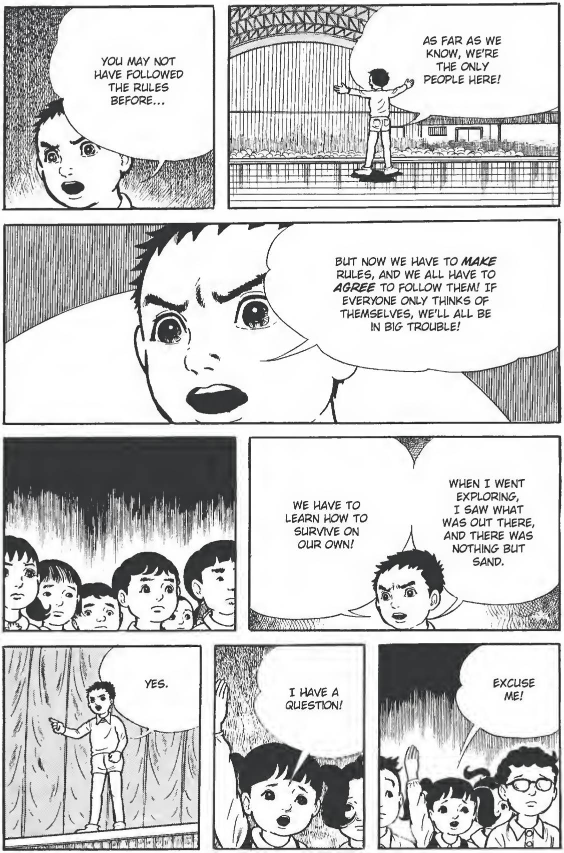

WE HAVE TO TELL EVERYONE!
I CAN'T JUST LIE HERE 'CAUSE MY TEETH HURT...
OW, OW, OW!
UNGH! MY TEETH!
HUH?
HEY, THERE'S A LITTLE FACTORY OVER HERE! THEY MAKE SOME KIND OF ELECTRONICS!
FOOD! WE FOUND *FOOD!*
HEY, GUYS!
WAAH... HA HA HA!
FWAK
FWAK
HA HA HA!
WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY!
THIS IS GREAT!
HURRAY!
THE SIXTH GRADERS HAD A MEETING. THEN WE CALLED THE WHOLE SCHOOL FOR A GIANT ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM.
SOME STUDENTS REMEMBERED THAT SEKIYA HAD TRIED TO SELL IT FOR OUR SCHOOL LUNCHES, BUT THE TEACHERS SAID NO BECAUSE IT WAS TOO OLD.
IN THE BACK OF SEKIYA'S CAR WE FOUND SOME OLD RICE.

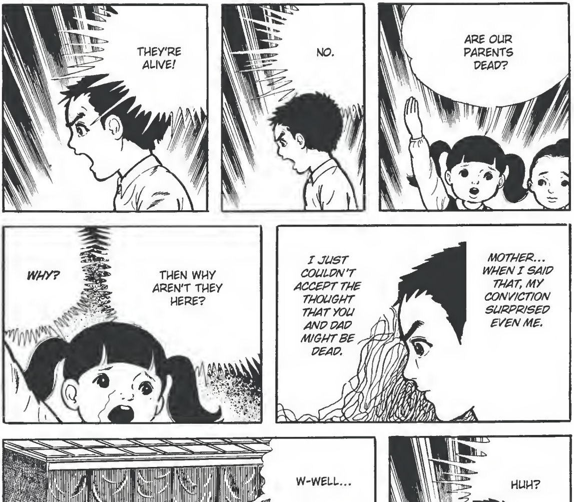

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
SOMEHOW WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE FUTURE!
ALL THE ADULTS ARE DEAD NOW!
WE WERE RELYING ON THEM, BUT FROM NOW ON WE'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN...

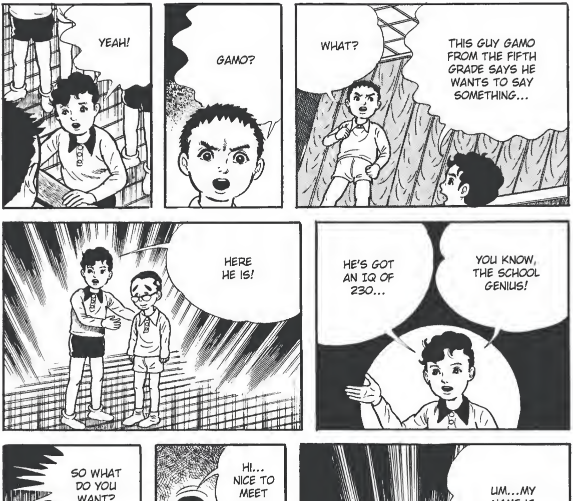

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO IF WE SET HIM LOOSE?
DON'T BE AN *IDIOT!* HE'S TOTALLY USELESS! HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN. HE'S LIKE A BEAST IN A CAGE!
BUT THERE'S STILL MR. SEKIYA, THE LUNCH MAN!
WELL...
WHY DID ALL OUR TEACHERS DIE?
I HAVE A QUESTION!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY IT...BUT YOU KNOW HOW ADULTS ALWAYS TRY TO BE "LOGICAL" AND "REASONABLE"...?
I THINK WHEN THEY HAD TO FACE SOMETHING THAT LOGIC COULDN'T EXPLAIN, THEY LOST THEIR MINDS.
ADULTS ALWAYS SAY "THAT CAN'T HAPPEN," OR "THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE," AND THINGS LIKE THAT...
THEIR MINDS ARE TOTALLY STUCK.
THEY PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN ADMIT THAT WE'VE GONE TO THE FUTURE.

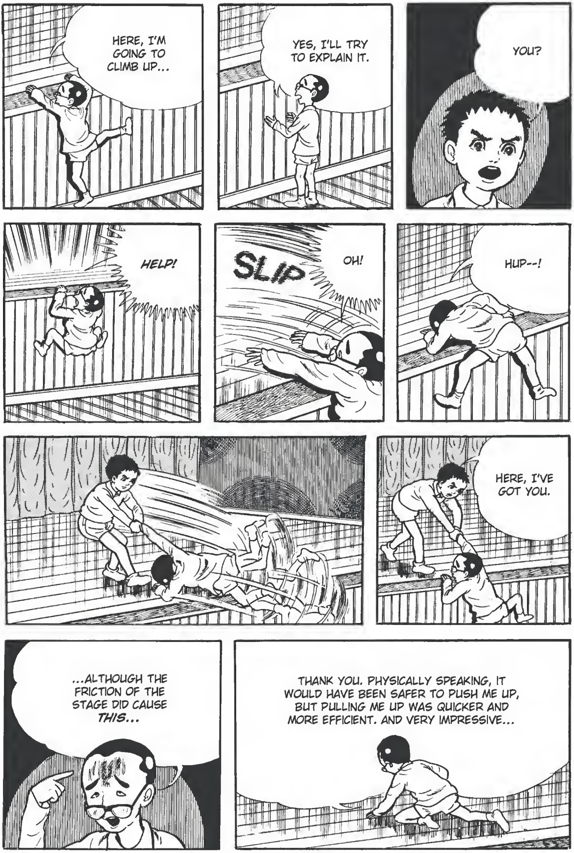

BUT *WE* KNOW THAT *ANYTHING* CAN HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHY *WE'VE* MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, BECAUSE WE CAN BELIEVE ANYTHING...
...WE MIGHT BELIEVE THINGS THAT AREN'T REAL...AND FALL PREY TO SUPERSTITIONS, LIKE SOME OF US DID WITH TATSUMI.
SO LET'S BE CAREFUL! WE HAVE TO FALL SOMEPLACE IN BETWEEN!
SINCE WE FOUND FOOD AND WATER I THINK WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR A WHILE.
BUT OUR FOOD AND WATER WON'T LAST FOREVER! SO WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE WE RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES!

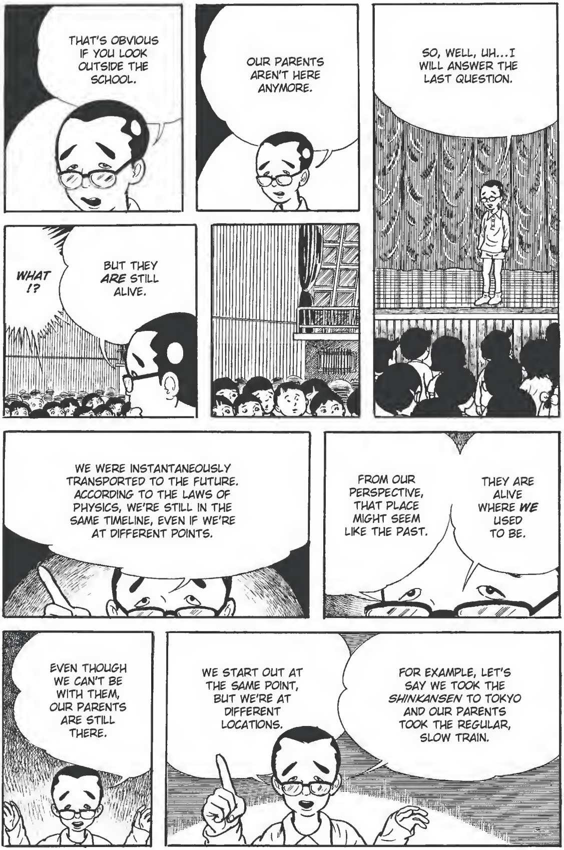

WE HAVE TO CONSERVE. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
SOME OF US MIGHT HAVE PULLED PRANKS BEFORE LIKE PICKING FLOWERS AND BREAKING BRANCHES OFF OF TREES!
おらないで!
*SIGN=DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS
IF YOU BROKE A WINDOW BEFORE, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS PAY FOR IT.
WE CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT ANYMORE!
IF SOMETHING BREAKS NOW, WE CAN'T REPLACE IT! WE HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO USE WHAT WE HAVE!
SINCE THE WORLD OUTSIDE IS A WASTELAND...
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE'S ENOUGH *AIR.*

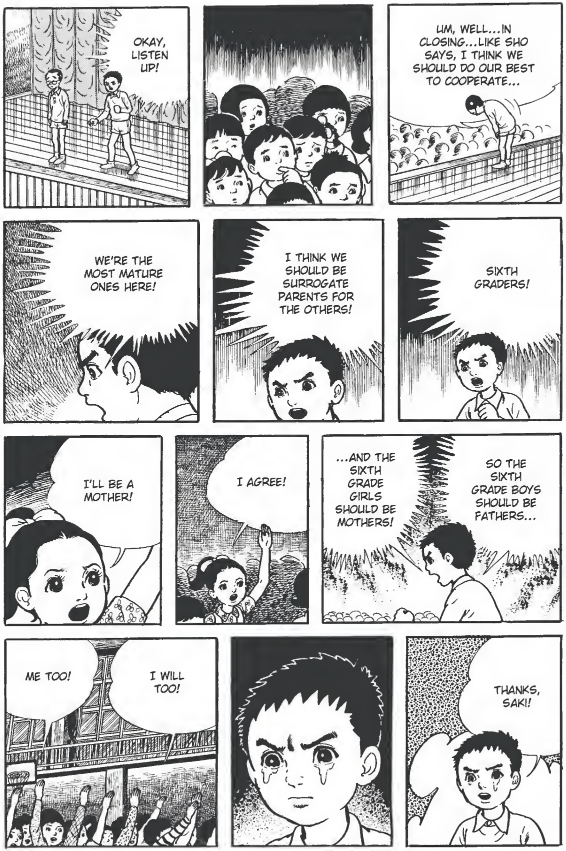

AS FAR AS WE KNOW, WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE HERE!
YOU MAY NOT HAVE FOLLOWED THE RULES BEFORE...
BUT NOW WE HAVE TO ***MAKE*** RULES, AND WE ALL HAVE TO ***AGREE*** TO FOLLOW THEM! IF EVERYONE ONLY THINKS OF THEMSELVES, WE'LL ALL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHEN I WENT EXPLORING, I SAW WHAT WAS OUT THERE, AND THERE WAS NOTHING BUT SAND.
WE HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN!
EXCUSE ME!
I HAVE A QUESTION!
YES.

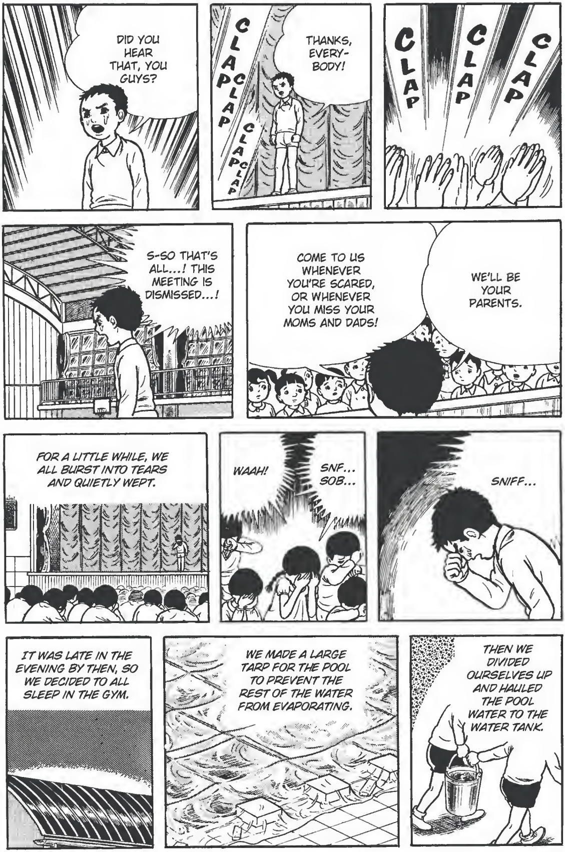

ARE OUR PARENTS DEAD?
NO.
THEY'RE ALIVE!
MOTHER... WHEN I SAID THAT, MY CONVICTION SURPRISED EVEN ME.
I JUST COULDN'T ACCEPT THE THOUGHT THAT YOU AND DAD MIGHT BE DEAD.
THEN WHY AREN'T THEY HERE?
WHY?
HUH?
W-WELL...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
EVERYONE WAS STARING AT ME.
HEY, SHO!


YEAH!
GAMO?
WHAT?
THIS GUY GAMO FROM THE FIFTH GRADE SAYS HE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING...
HERE HE IS!
HE'S GOT AN IQ OF 230...
YOU KNOW, THE SCHOOL GENIUS!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HI... NICE TO MEET YOU.
SNIFFLE
UM...MY NAME IS GAMO.
WHAT?
ALLOW *ME* TO ANSWER HER QUESTION.


YOU?
YES, I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN IT.
HERE, I'M GOING TO CLIMB UP...
HUP--!
OH!
SLIP
HELP!
HERE, I'VE GOT YOU.
THANK YOU. PHYSICALLY SPEAKING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFER TO PUSH ME UP, BUT PULLING ME UP WAS QUICKER AND MORE EFFICIENT. AND VERY IMPRESSIVE...
...ALTHOUGH THE FRICTION OF THE STAGE DID CAUSE *THIS*...

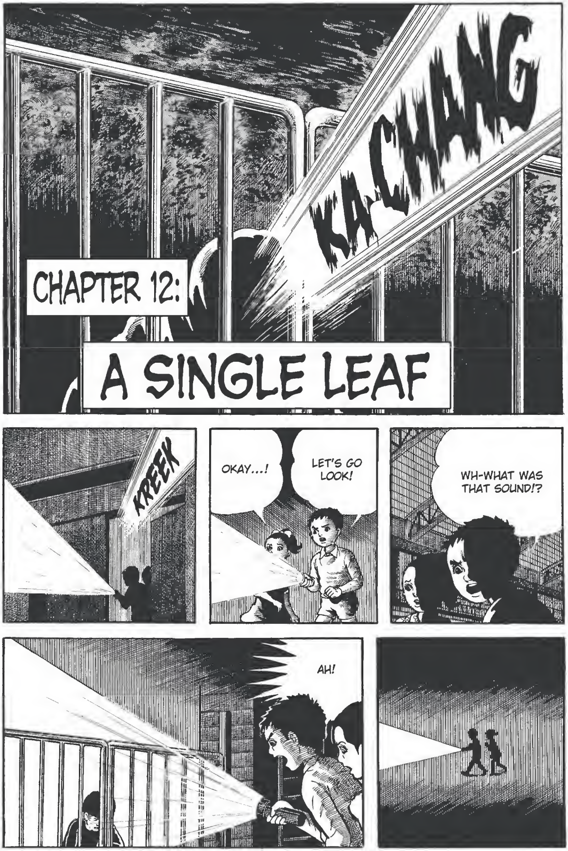

SO, WELL, UH...I WILL ANSWER THE LAST QUESTION.
OUR PARENTS AREN'T HERE ANYMORE.
THAT'S OBVIOUS IF YOU LOOK OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.
BUT THEY *ARE* STILL ALIVE.
WHAT!?
THEY ARE ALIVE WHERE *WE* USED TO BE.
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, THAT PLACE MIGHT SEEM LIKE THE PAST.
WE WERE INSTANTANEOUSLY TRANSPORTED TO THE FUTURE. ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, WE'RE STILL IN THE SAME TIMELINE, EVEN IF WE'RE AT DIFFERENT POINTS.
FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY WE TOOK THE *SHINKANSEN* TO TOKYO AND OUR PARENTS TOOK THE REGULAR, SLOW TRAIN.
WE START OUT AT THE SAME POINT, BUT WE'RE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.
EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T BE WITH THEM, OUR PARENTS ARE STILL THERE.

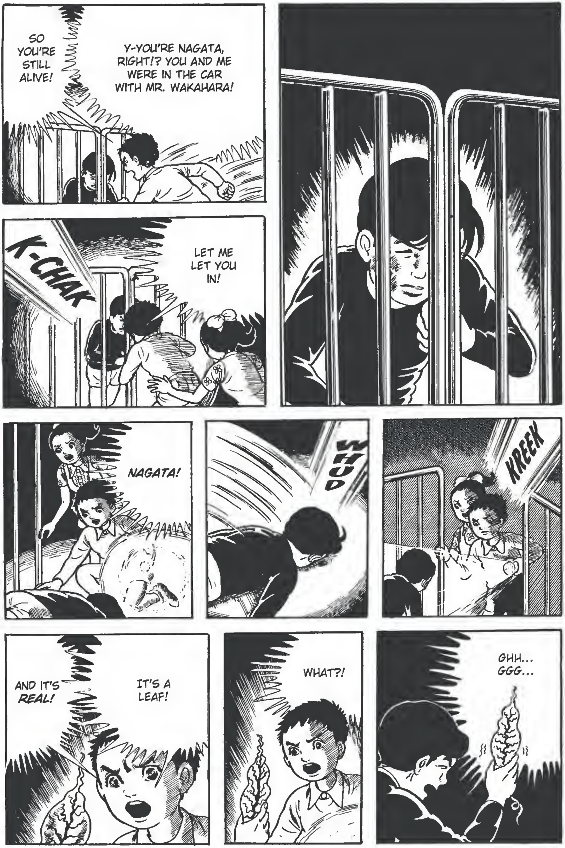

UM, WELL...IN CLOSING...LIKE SHO SAYS, I THINK WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO COOPERATE...
OKAY, LISTEN UP!
SIXTH GRADERS!
I THINK WE SHOULD BE SURROGATE PARENTS FOR THE OTHERS!
WE'RE THE MOST MATURE ONES HERE!
SO THE SIXTH GRADE BOYS SHOULD BE FATHERS...
...AND THE SIXTH GRADE GIRLS SHOULD BE MOTHERS!
I AGREE!
I'LL BE A MOTHER!
THANKS, SAKI!
I WILL TOO!
ME TOO!

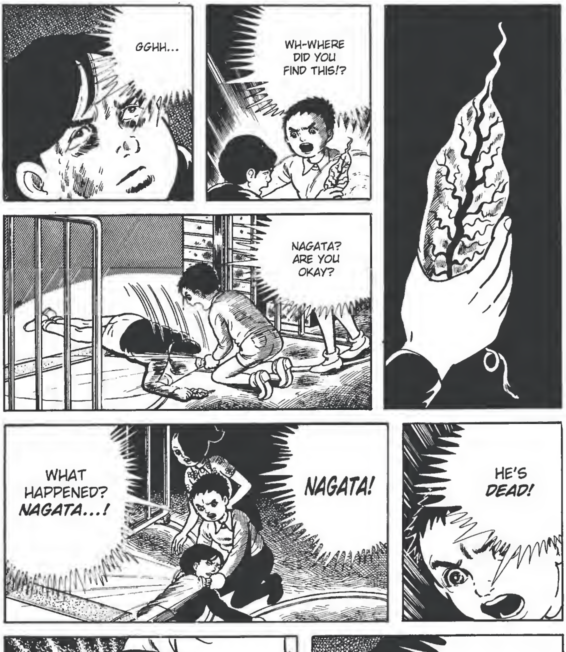

DID YOU HEAR THAT, YOU GUYS?
THANKS, EVERY-BODY!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
S-SO THAT'S ALL...! THIS MEETING IS DISMISSED...!
COME TO US WHENEVER YOU'RE SCARED, OR WHENEVER YOU MISS YOUR MOMS AND DADS!
WE'LL BE YOUR PARENTS.
FOR A LITTLE WHILE, WE ALL BURST INTO TEARS AND QUIETLY WEPT.
WAAH!
SNF... SOB...
SNIFF...
IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING BY THEN, SO WE DECIDED TO ALL SLEEP IN THE GYM.
WE MADE A LARGE TARP FOR THE POOL TO PREVENT THE REST OF THE WATER FROM EVAPORATING.
THEN WE DIVIDED OURSELVES UP AND HAULED THE POOL WATER TO THE WATER TANK.

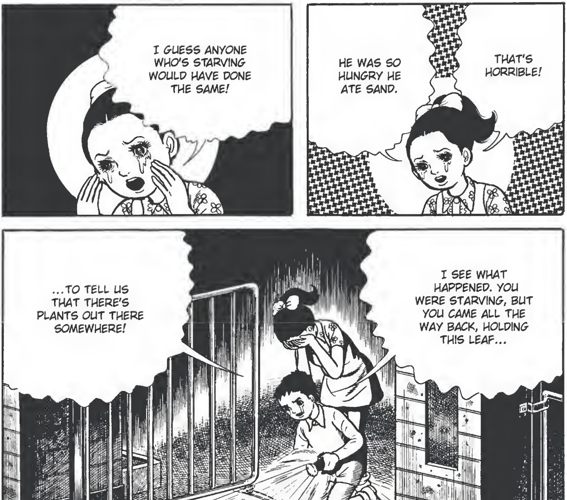
CHAPTER 12:

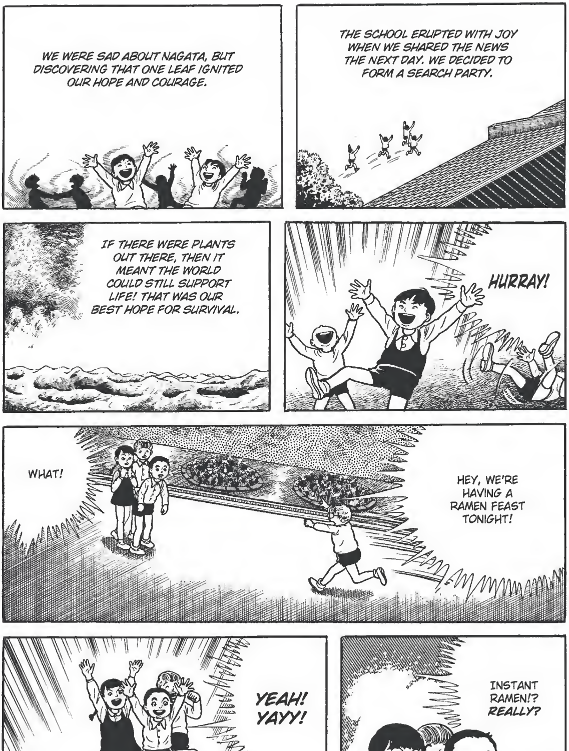
A SINGLE LEAF

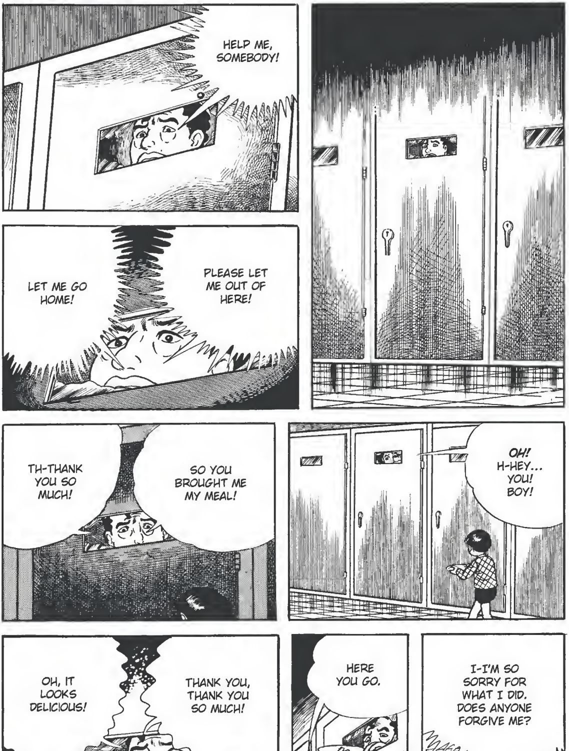

KA-CHANG
WH-WHAT WAS THAT SOUND!?
LET'S GO LOOK!
OKAY...!
KREEK
AH!

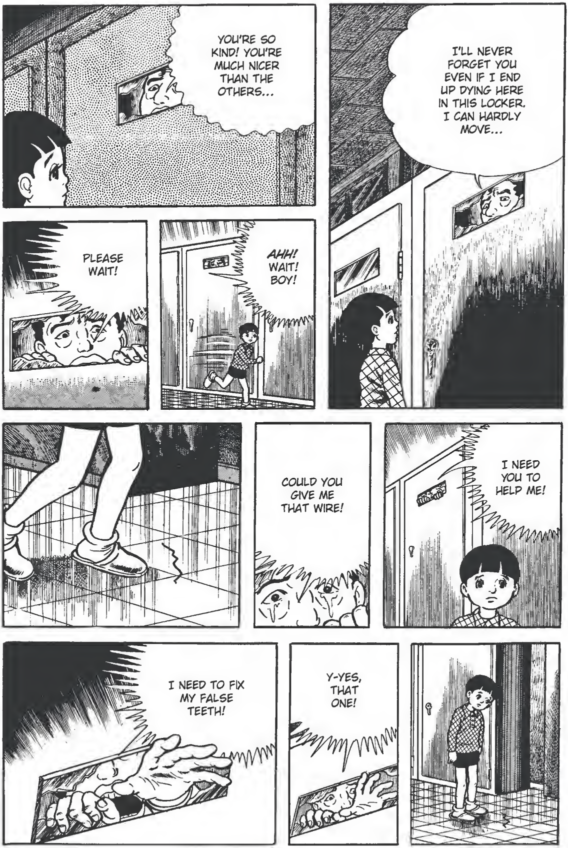

Y-YOU'RE NAGATA, RIGHT!? YOU AND ME WERE IN THE CAR WITH MR. WAKAHARA!
SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
K-CHAK
LET ME LET YOU IN!
KREEK
WHUD
NAGATA!
GHH... GGG...
WHAT?!
IT'S A LEAF!
AND IT'S REAL!

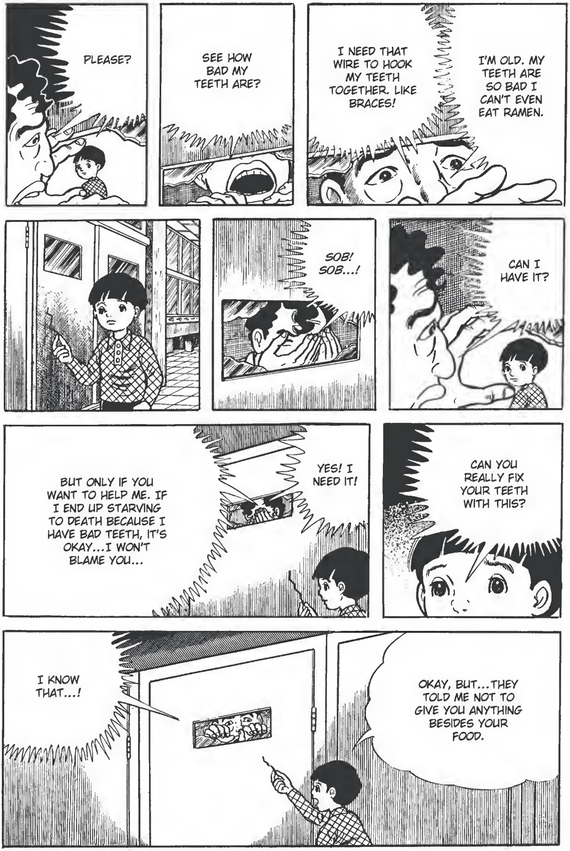

GGHH...
WH-WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS!?
NAGATA? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAPPENED? *NAGATA...!*
NAGATA!
HE'S *DEAD!*
WHY IS YOUR MOUTH FILLED WITH SAND...?

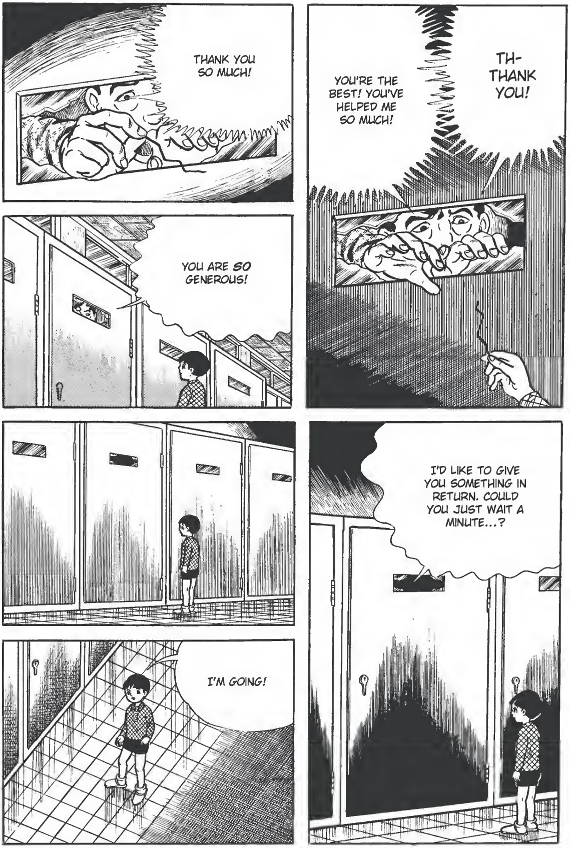

THAT'S HORRIBLE!
HE WAS SO HUNGRY HE ATE SAND.
I GUESS ANYONE WHO'S STARVING WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME!
I SEE WHAT HAPPENED. YOU WERE STARVING, BUT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY BACK, HOLDING THIS LEAF...
...TO TELL US THAT THERE'S PLANTS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE!
THANK YOU, NAGATA!
UNNH ...!

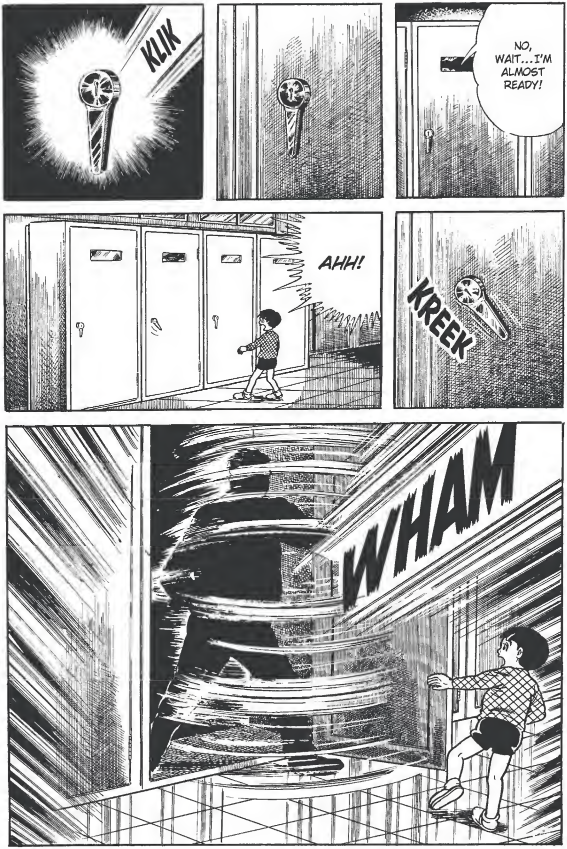

WE WERE SAD ABOUT NAGATA, BUT DISCOVERING THAT ONE LEAF IGNITED OUR HOPE AND COURAGE.
THE SCHOOL ERUPTED WITH JOY WHEN WE SHARED THE NEWS THE NEXT DAY. WE DECIDED TO FORM A SEARCH PARTY.
IF THERE WERE PLANTS OUT THERE, THEN IT MEANT THE WORLD COULD STILL SUPPORT LIFE! THAT WAS OUR BEST HOPE FOR SURVIVAL.
HURRAY!
WHAT!
HEY, WE'RE HAVING A RAMEN FEAST TONIGHT!
YEAH! YAYY!
INSTANT RAMEN!? REALLY?

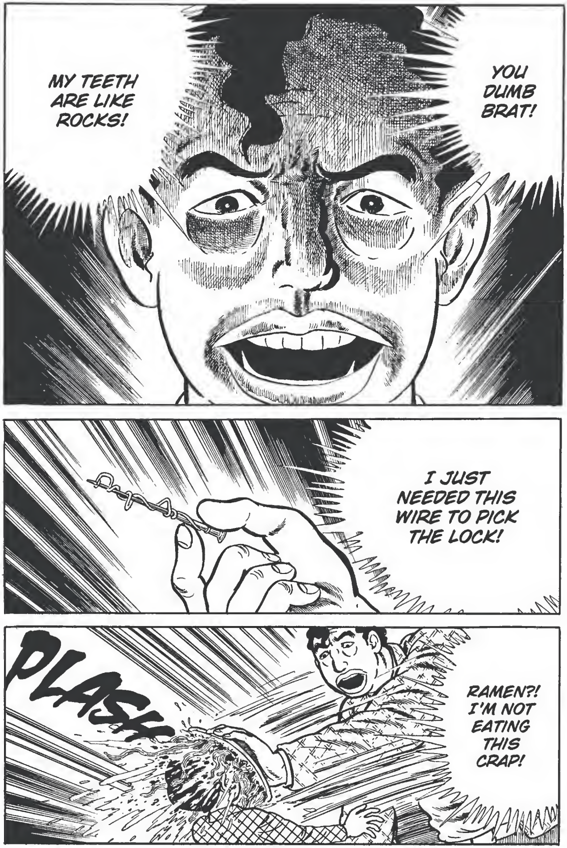

HELP ME, SOMEBODY!
PLEASE LET ME OUT OF HERE!
LET ME GO HOME!
OH! H-HEY... YOU! BOY!
SO YOU BROUGHT ME MY MEAL!
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I-I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT I DID. DOES ANYONE FORGIVE ME?
HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OH, IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!

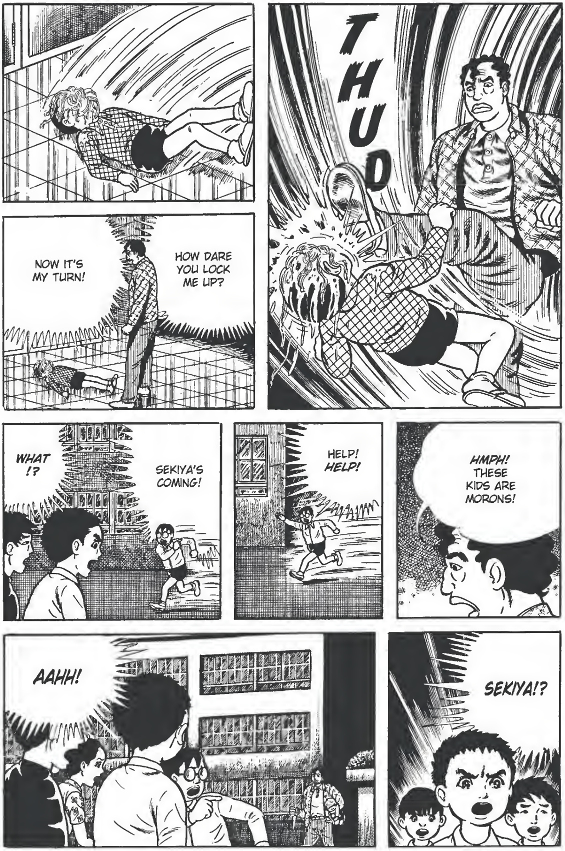

YOU'RE SO KIND! YOU'RE MUCH NICER THAN THE OTHERS...
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU EVEN IF I END UP DYING HERE IN THIS LOCKER. I CAN HARDLY MOVE...
PLEASE WAIT!
AHH! WAIT! BOY!
COULD YOU GIVE ME THAT WIRE!
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME!
I NEED TO FIX MY FALSE TEETH!
Y-YES, THAT ONE!

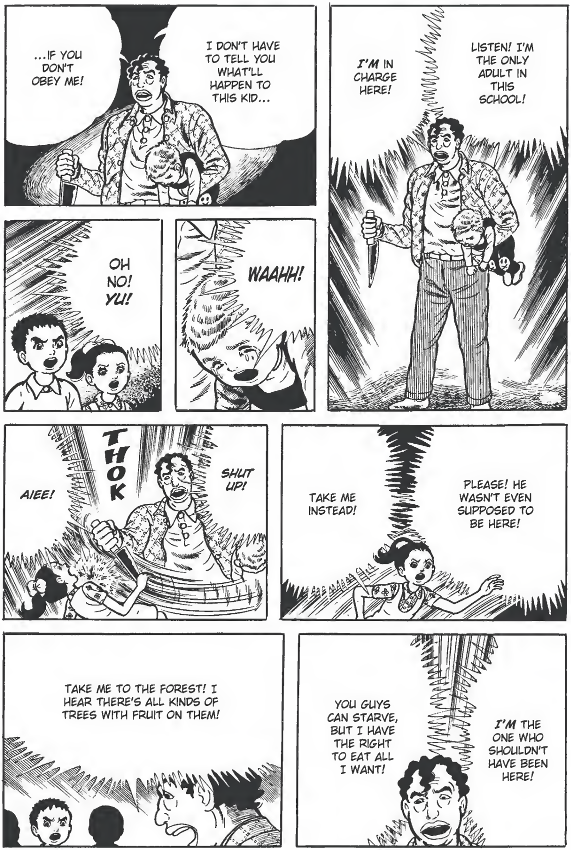

I'M OLD. MY TEETH ARE SO BAD I CAN'T EVEN EAT RAMEN.
I NEED THAT WIRE TO HOOK MY TEETH TOGETHER. LIKE BRACES!
SEE HOW BAD MY TEETH ARE?
PLEASE?
CAN I HAVE IT?
SOB! SOB...!
CAN YOU REALLY FIX YOUR TEETH WITH THIS?
YES! I NEED IT!
BUT ONLY IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME. IF I END UP STARVING TO DEATH BECAUSE I HAVE BAD TEETH, IT'S OKAY...I WON'T BLAME YOU...
OKAY, BUT...THEY TOLD ME NOT TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING BESIDES YOUR FOOD.
I KNOW THAT...!

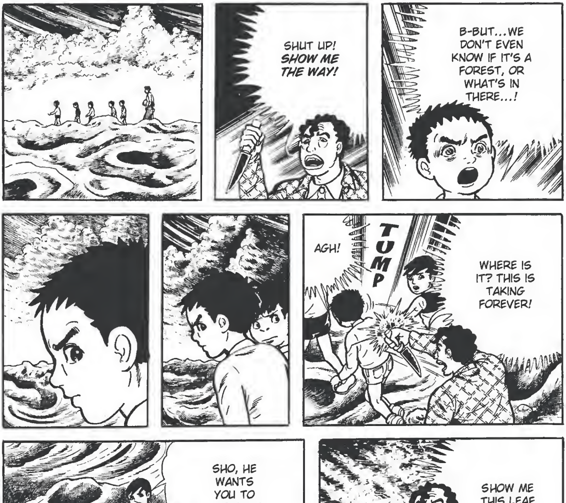

TH- THANK YOU!
YOU'RE THE BEST! YOU'VE HELPED ME SO MUCH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU ARE *SO* GENEROUS!
I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN. COULD YOU JUST WAIT A MINUTE...?
I'M GOING!

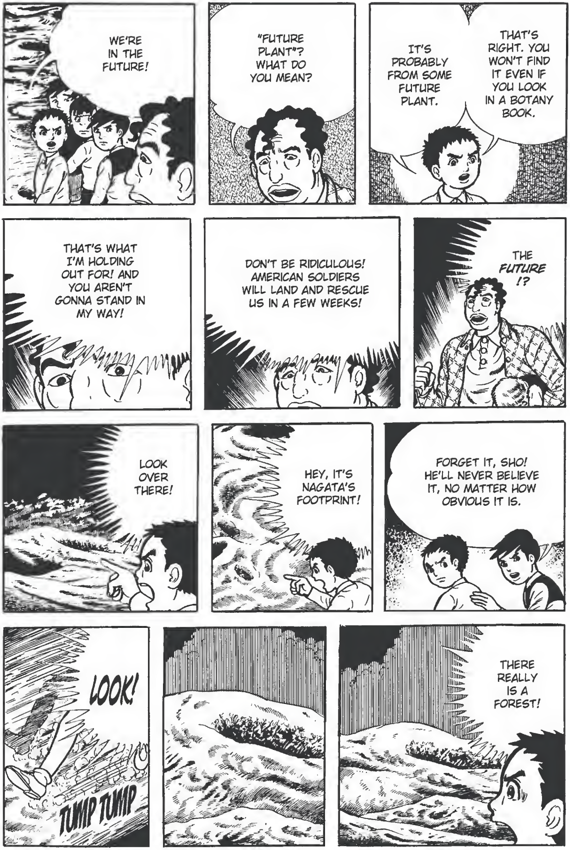

KLIK
NO, WAIT...I'M ALMOST READY!
AHH!
KREEK
WHAM

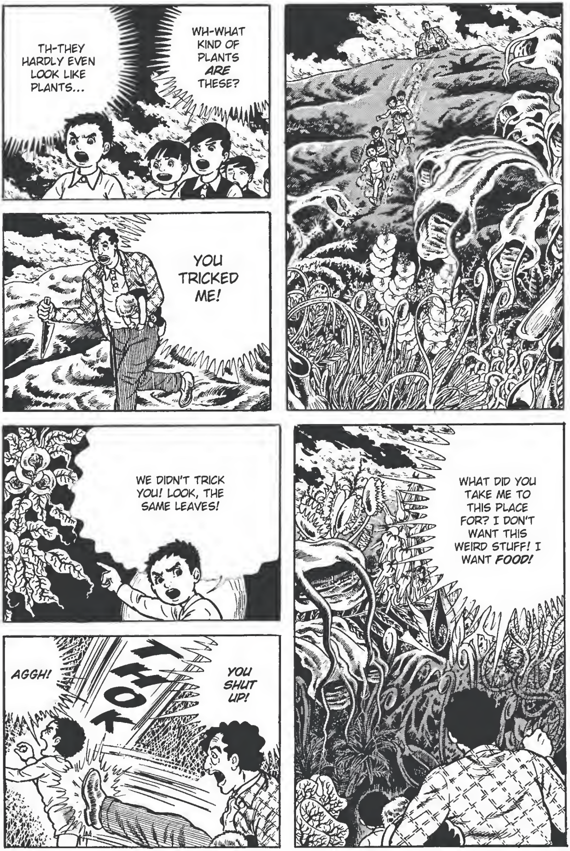

YOU DUMB BRAT!
MY TEETH ARE LIKE ROCKS!
I JUST NEEDED THIS WIRE TO PICK THE LOCK!
RAMEN?! I'M NOT EATING THIS CRAP!
PLASH

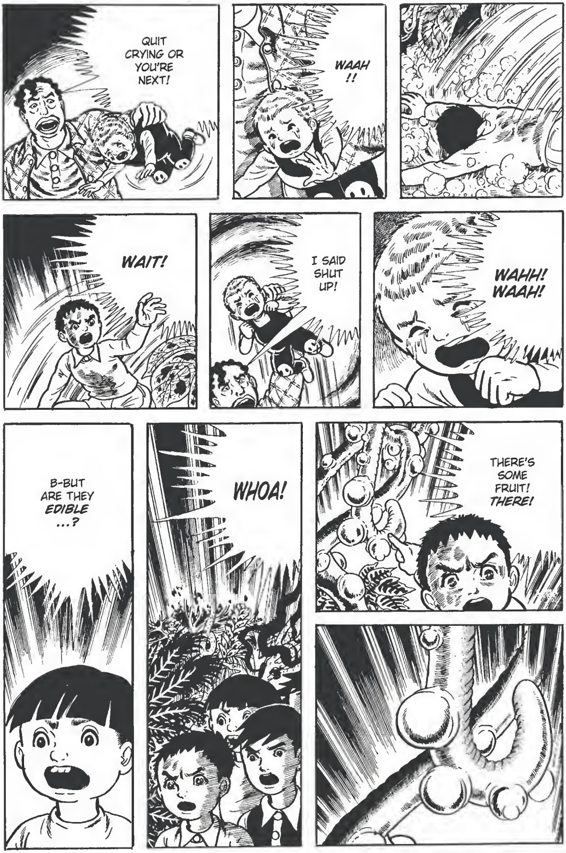

THUD
HOW DARE YOU LOCK ME UP?
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
HMPH! THESE KIDS ARE MORONS!
HELP! HELP!
SEKIYA'S COMING!
WHAT !?
SEKIYA!?
AAHH!

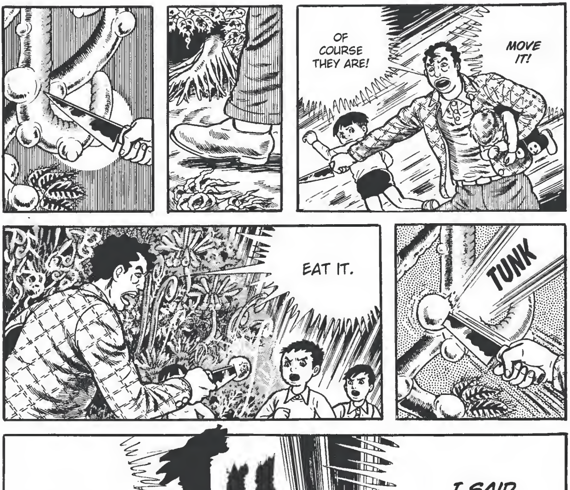

LISTEN! I'M THE ONLY ADULT IN THIS SCHOOL!
I'M IN CHARGE HERE!
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THIS KID...
...IF YOU DON'T OBEY ME!
WAAHH!
OH NO! *YU!*
PLEASE! HE WASN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
TAKE ME INSTEAD!
SHUT UP!
THOK
AIEE!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HERE!
YOU GUYS CAN STARVE, BUT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT ALL I WANT!
TAKE ME TO THE FOREST! I HEAR THERE'S ALL KINDS OF TREES WITH FRUIT ON THEM!

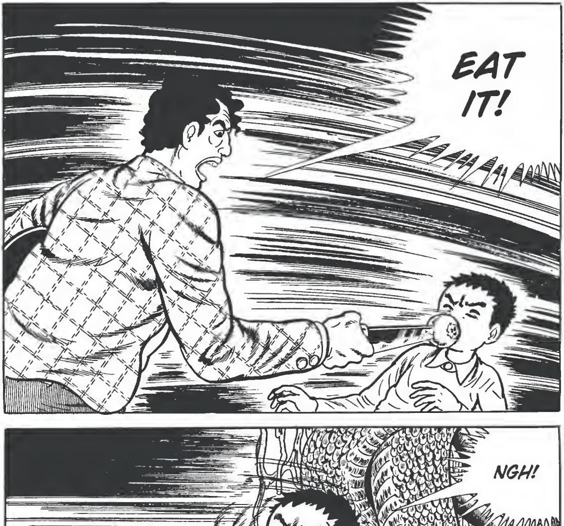

SHUT UP! *SHOW ME THE WAY!*
B-BUT...WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S A FOREST, OR WHAT'S IN THERE...!
AGH!
TUMP
WHERE IS IT? THIS IS TAKING FOREVER!
SHO, HE WANTS YOU TO SHOW HIM THE LEAF!
SHOW ME THIS LEAF OF YOURS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A LEAF LIKE THIS BEFORE!
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS!?
HERE IT IS.

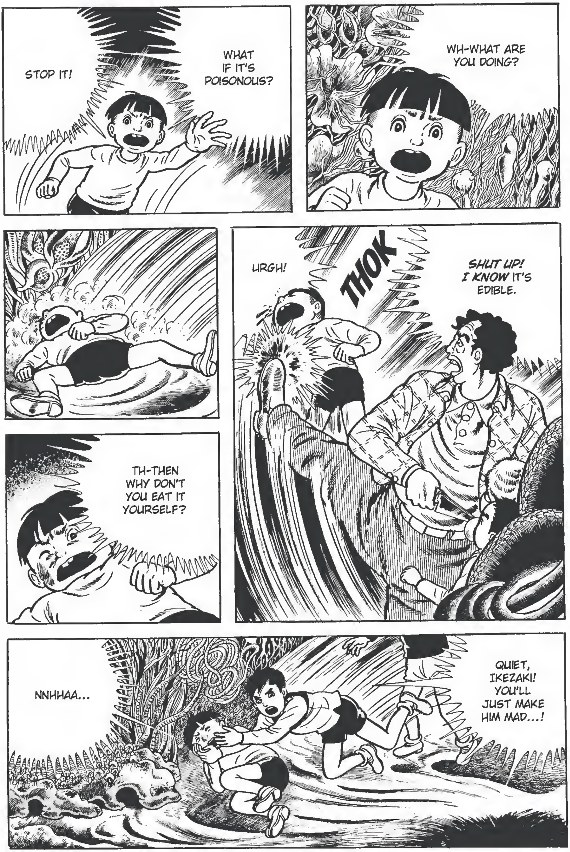

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WON'T FIND IT EVEN IF YOU LOOK IN A BOTANY BOOK.
IT'S PROBABLY FROM SOME FUTURE PLANT.
"FUTURE PLANT"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE'RE IN THE FUTURE!
THE *FUTURE* !?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! AMERICAN SOLDIERS WILL LAND AND RESCUE US IN A FEW WEEKS!
THAT'S WHAT I'M HOLDING OUT FOR! AND YOU AREN'T GONNA STAND IN MY WAY!
FORGET IT, SHO! HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT, NO MATTER HOW OBVIOUS IT IS.
HEY, IT'S NAGATA'S FOOTPRINT!
LOOK OVER THERE!
THERE REALLY IS A FOREST!
LOOK!
TUMP TUMP

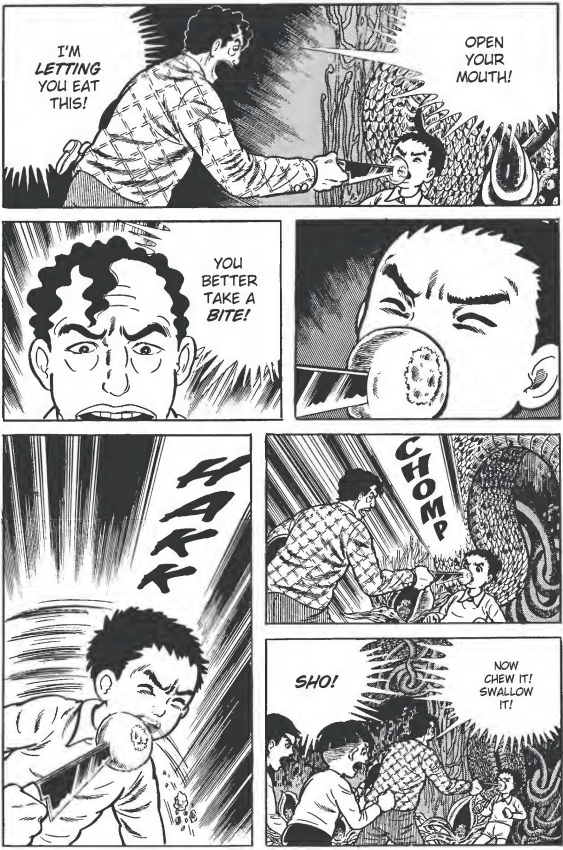

TH-THEY HARDLY EVEN LOOK LIKE PLANTS...
WH-WHAT KIND OF PLANTS *ARE* THESE?
YOU TRICKED ME!
WE DIDN'T TRICK YOU! LOOK, THE SAME LEAVES!
AGGH!
THOK
YOU SHUT UP!
WHAT DID YOU TAKE ME TO THIS PLACE FOR? I DON'T WANT THIS WEIRD STUFF! I WANT *FOOD!*

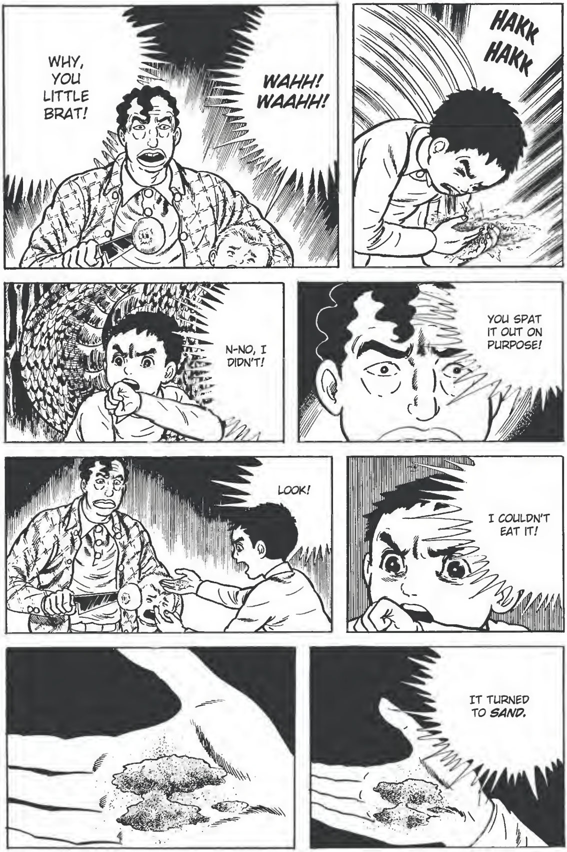

WAAH !!
QUIT CRYING OR YOU'RE NEXT!
WAHH! WAAH!
I SAID SHUT UP!
WAIT!
THERE'S SOME FRUIT! *THERE!*
WHOA!
B-BUT ARE THEY *EDIBLE* ...?

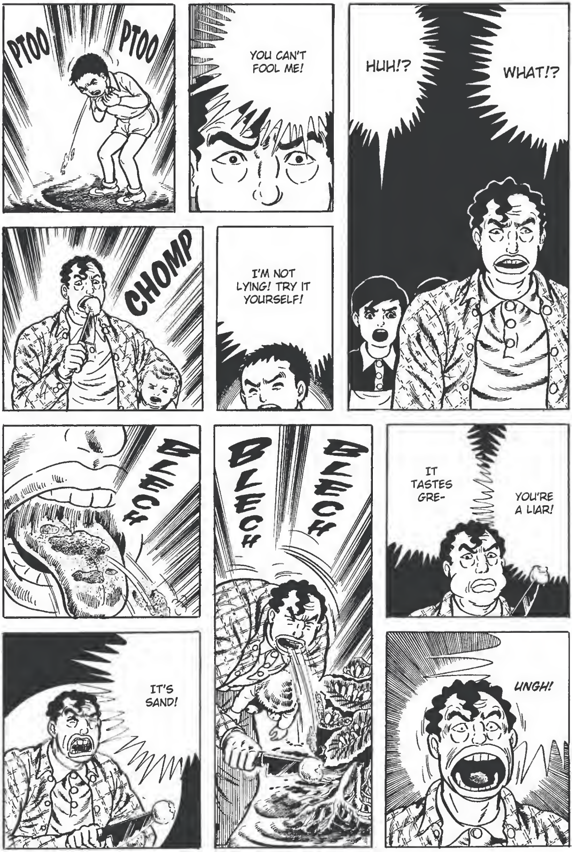

MOVE IT!
OF COURSE THEY ARE!
TUNK
EAT IT.
I SAID EAT IT!
THUD
AGH!

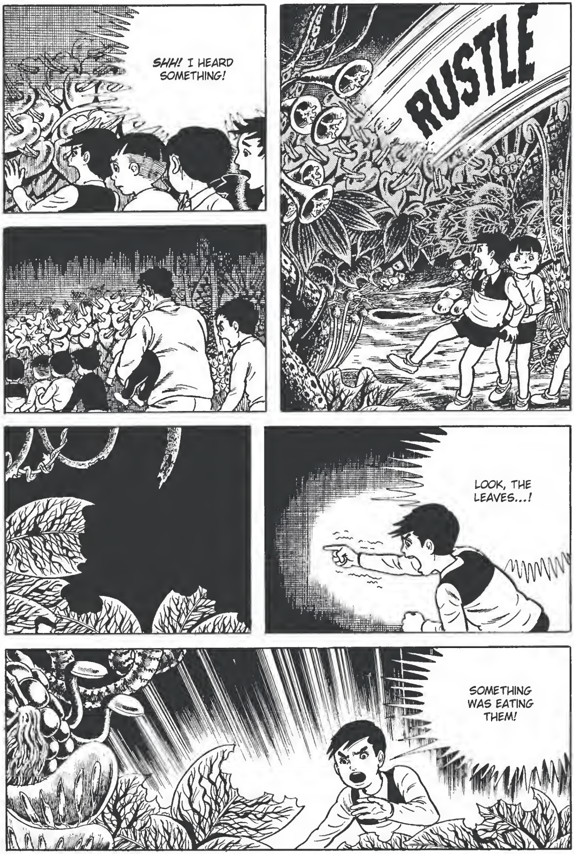

EAT IT!
NGH!
SHO!
MMGG ...!

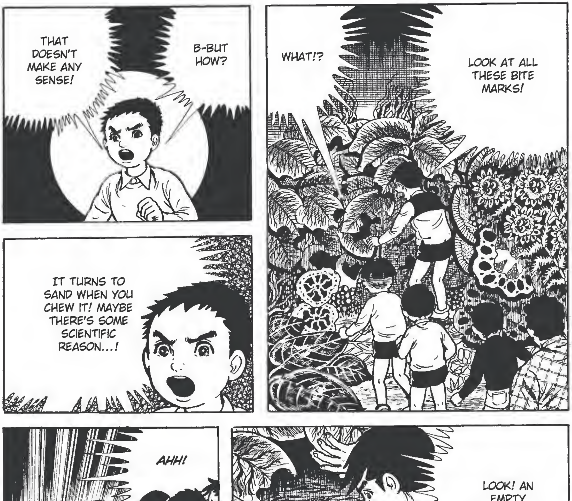

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT IF IT'S POISONOUS?
STOP IT!
SHUT UP! I KNOW IT'S EDIBLE.
THOK
URGH!
TH-THEN WHY DON'T YOU EAT IT YOURSELF?
QUIET, IKEZAKI! YOU'LL JUST MAKE HIM MAD...!
NNHHAA...

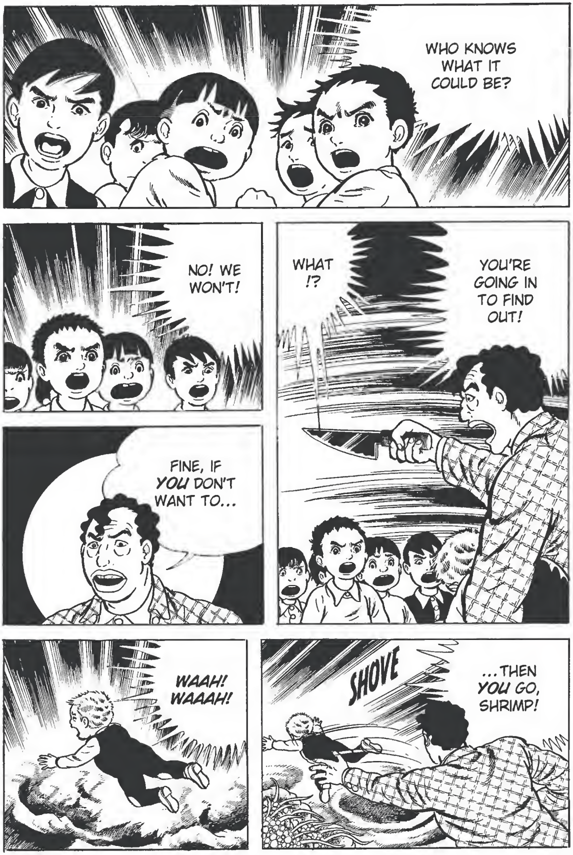

I'M *LETTING* YOU EAT THIS!
OPEN YOUR MOUTH!
YOU BETTER TAKE A *BITE!*
HAKK
CHOMP
SHO!
NOW CHEW IT! SWALLOW IT!

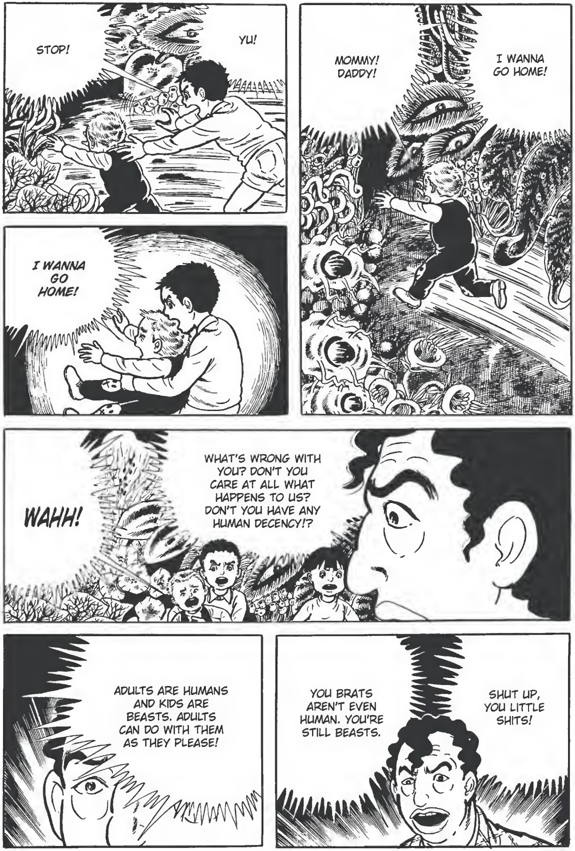

HAKK
HAKK
WAHH! WAAHH!
WHY, YOU LITTLE BRAT!
YOU SPAT IT OUT ON PURPOSE!
N-NO, I DIDN'T!
I COULDN'T EAT IT!
LOOK!
IT TURNED TO *SAND.*

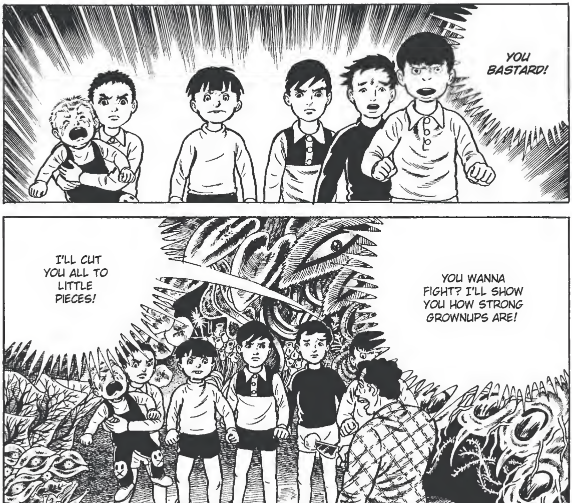

HUH!?
WHAT!?
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
PTOO
PTOO
I'M NOT LYING! TRY IT YOURSELF!
CHOMP
IT TASTES GRE-
YOU'RE A LIAR!
BLEECH
BLEECH
BLEECH
UNGH!
IT'S SAND!

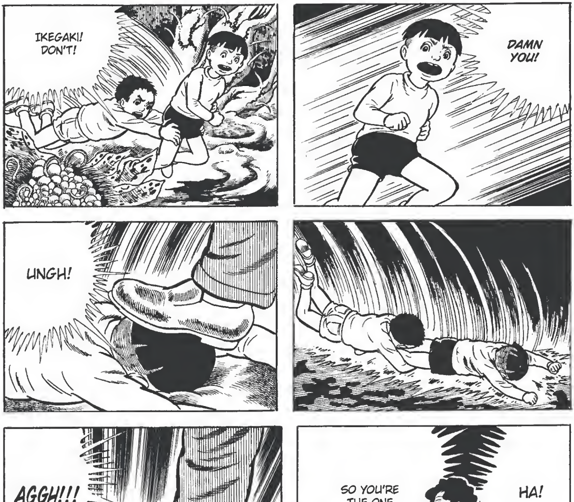

SHH! I HEARD SOMETHING!
RUSTLE
LOOK, THE LEAVES...!
SOMETHING WAS EATING THEM!

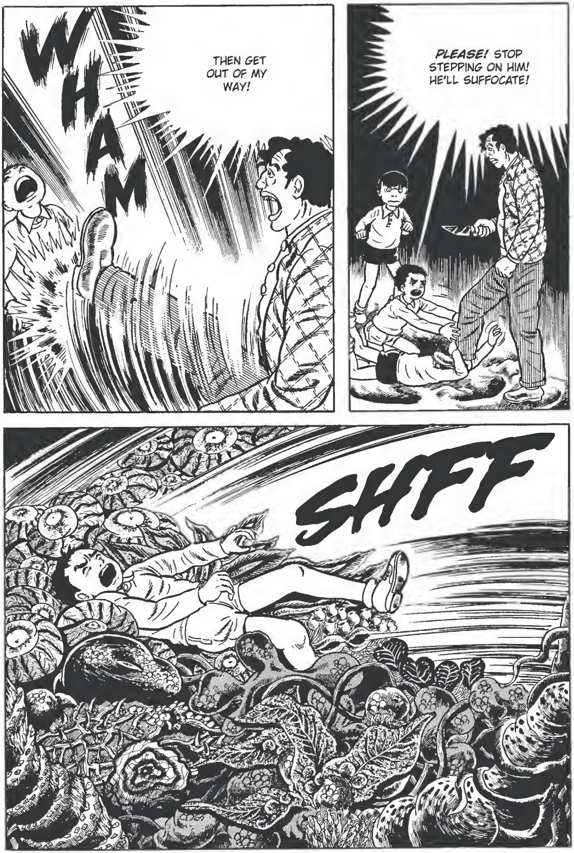

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
B-BUT HOW?
IT TURNS TO SAND WHEN YOU CHEW IT! MAYBE THERE'S SOME SCIENTIFIC REASON...!
LOOK AT ALL THESE BITE MARKS!
WHAT!?
AHH!
LOOK! AN EMPTY EGGSHELL!
THERE'S AN ANIMAL HERE!

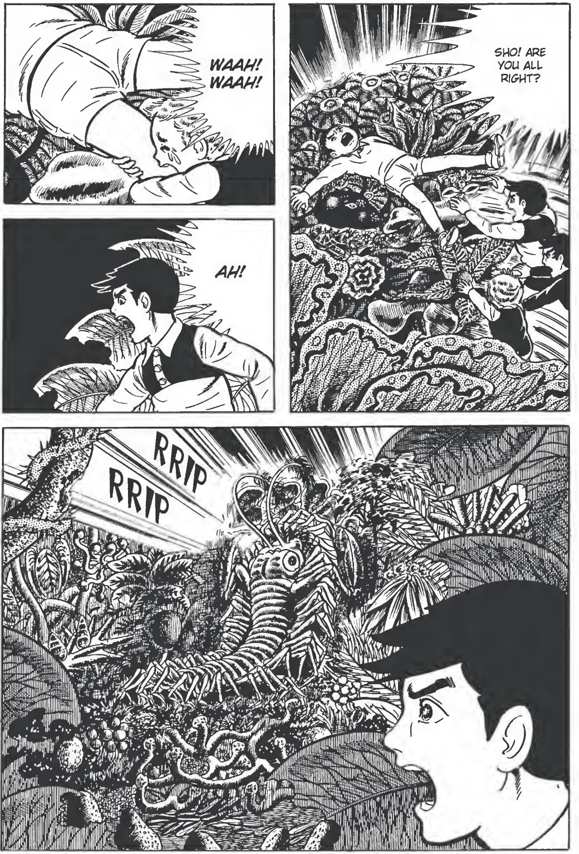

WHO KNOWS WHAT IT COULD BE?
YOU'RE GOING IN TO FIND OUT!
WHAT !?
NO! WE WON'T!
FINE, IF *YOU* DON'T WANT TO...
SHOVE
...THEN *YOU* GO, SHRIMP!
WAAH! WAAAH!

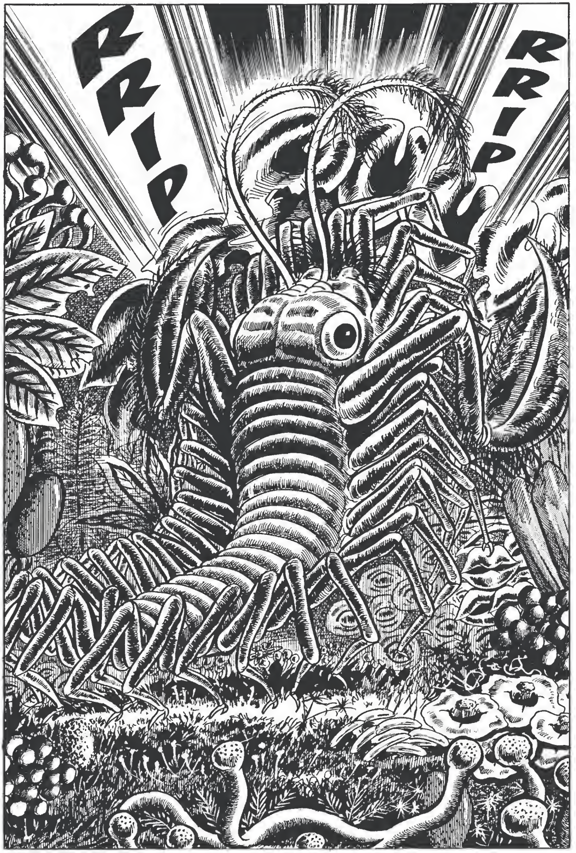

I WANNA GO HOME!
MOMMY! DADDY!
YU!
STOP!
I WANNA GO HOME!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? DON'T YOU CARE AT ALL WHAT HAPPENS TO US? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY HUMAN DECENCY!?
WAHH!
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE SHITS!
YOU BRATS AREN'T EVEN HUMAN. YOU'RE STILL BEASTS.
ADULTS ARE HUMANS AND KIDS ARE BEASTS. ADULTS CAN DO WITH THEM AS THEY PLEASE!

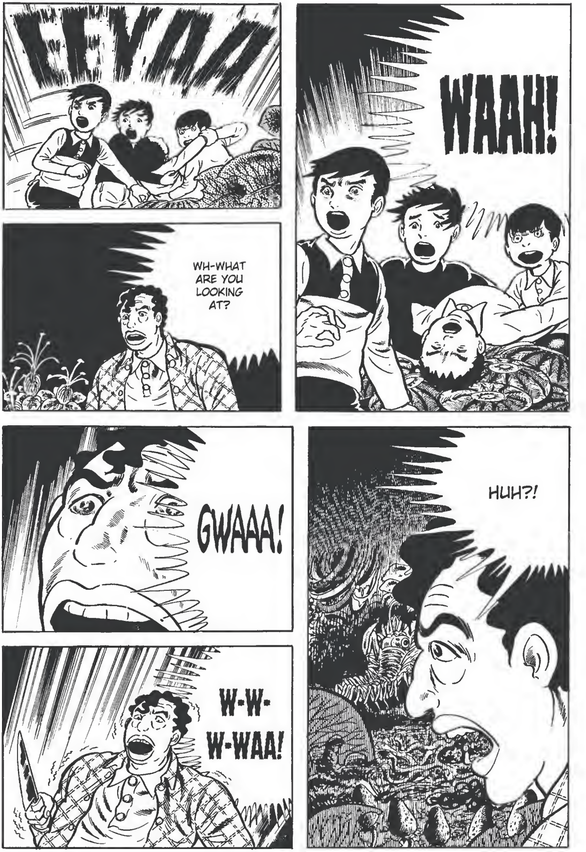

YOU BASTARD!
YOU WANNA FIGHT? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STRONG GROWNUPS ARE!
I'LL CUT YOU ALL TO LITTLE PIECES!
D-DAMN IT!
SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT, YOU LITTLE TWERP?
WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THIS BASTARD!

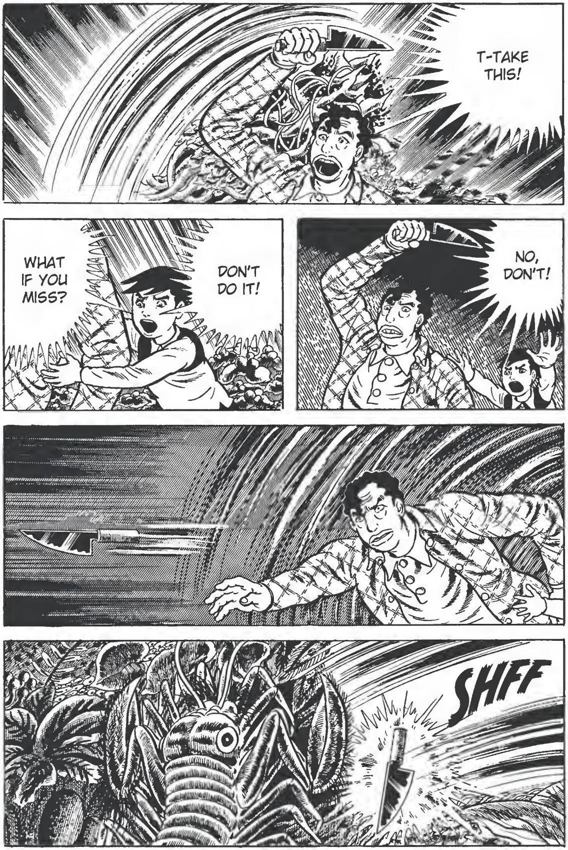

IKEGAKI! DON'T!
DAMN YOU!
UNGH!
AGGH!!!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO KILL ME!
HA!
PLEASE STOP DOING THIS!
STOP IT!

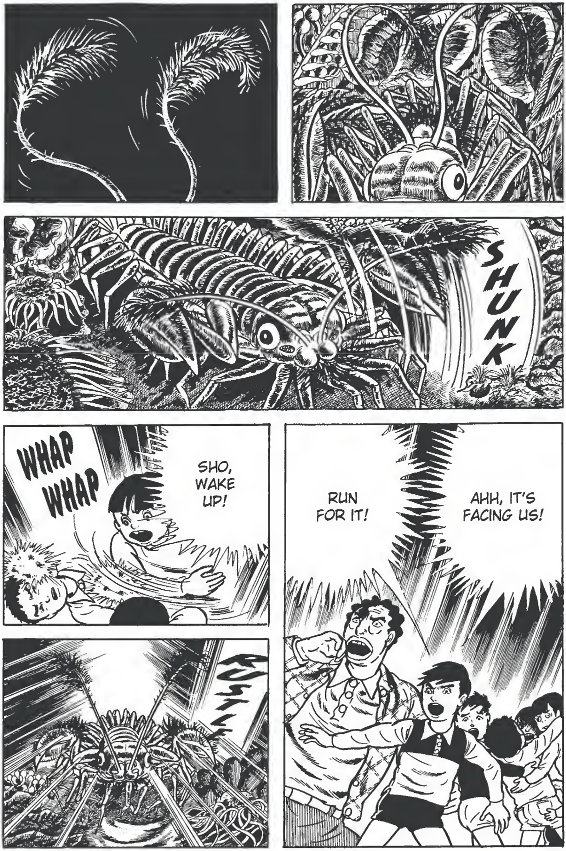

WHAM
THEN GET OUT OF MY WAY!
PLEASE! STOP STEPPING ON HIM! HE'LL SUFFOCATE!
SHFF

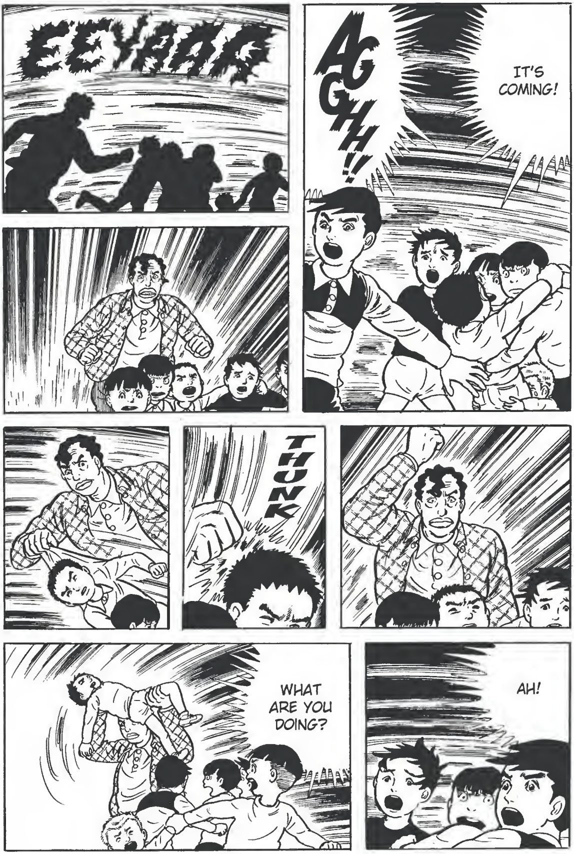

SHO! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAAH! WAAH!
AH!
RRIP
RRIP

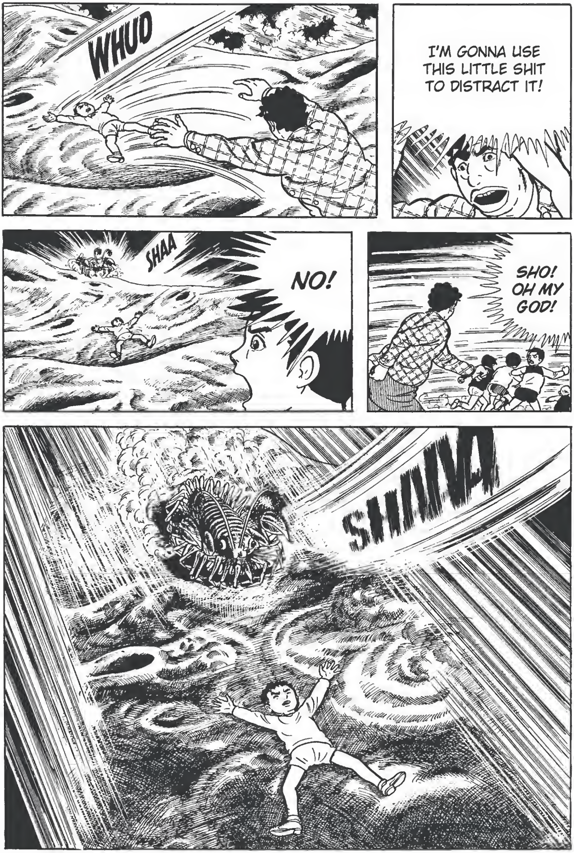

RRIP
RRIP

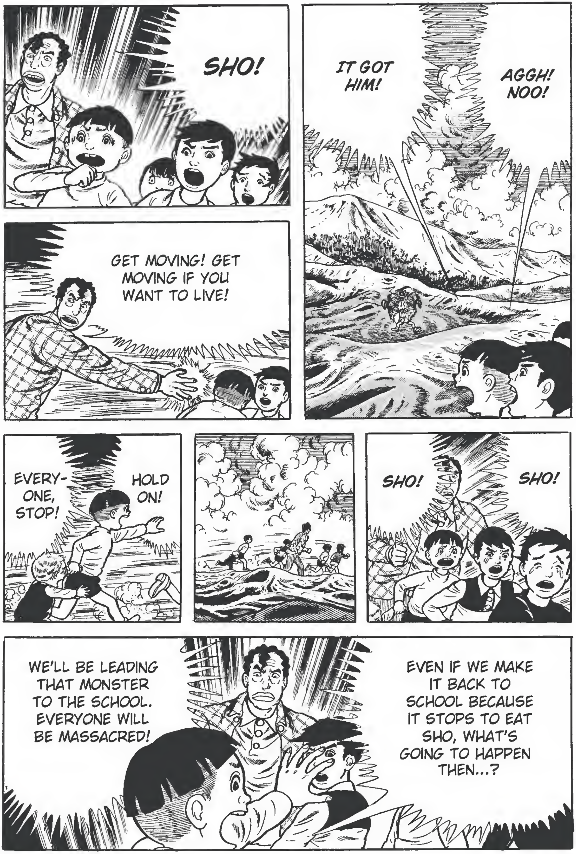

WAAH!
EEYAA
WH-WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
HUH?!
GWAAA!
W-W-W-WAA!

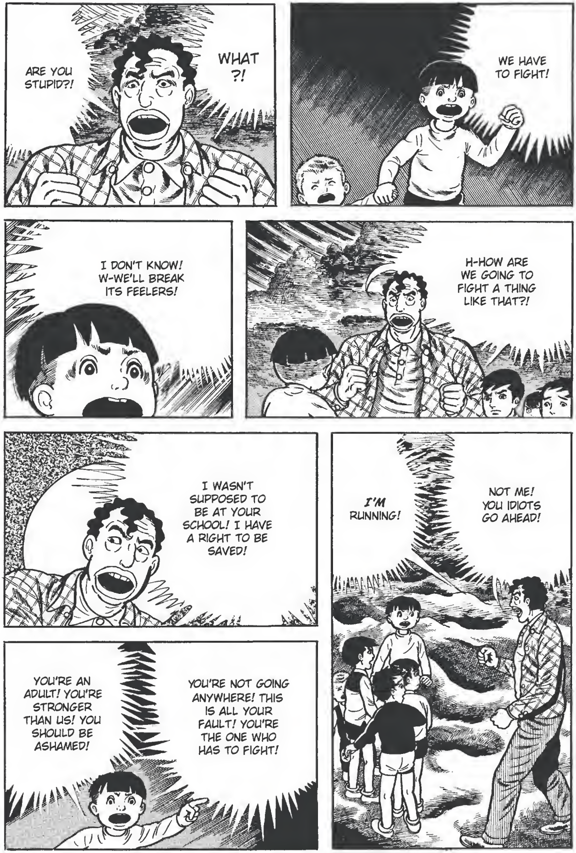

T-TAKE THIS!
DON'T DO IT!
WHAT IF YOU MISS?
NO, DON'T!
SHFF

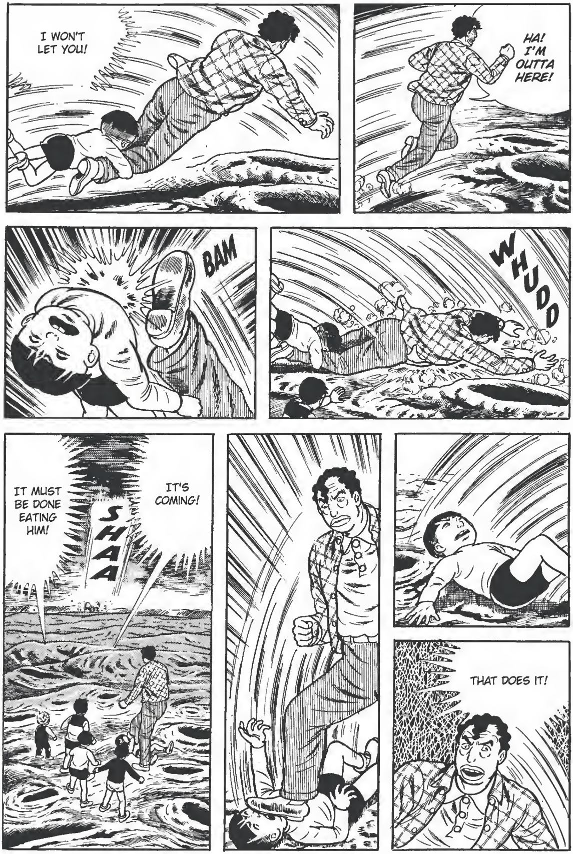

SHUNK
AHH, IT'S FACING US!
RUN FOR IT!
SHO, WAKE UP!
WHAP WHAP
RUSTLE

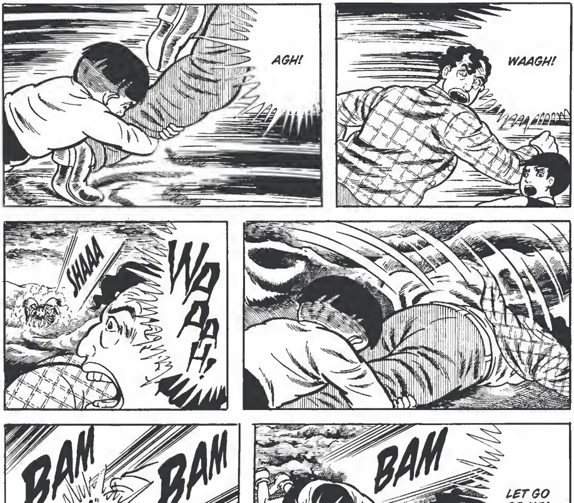

EEYAAA
AGGHH!!
IT'S COMING!
THUNK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!

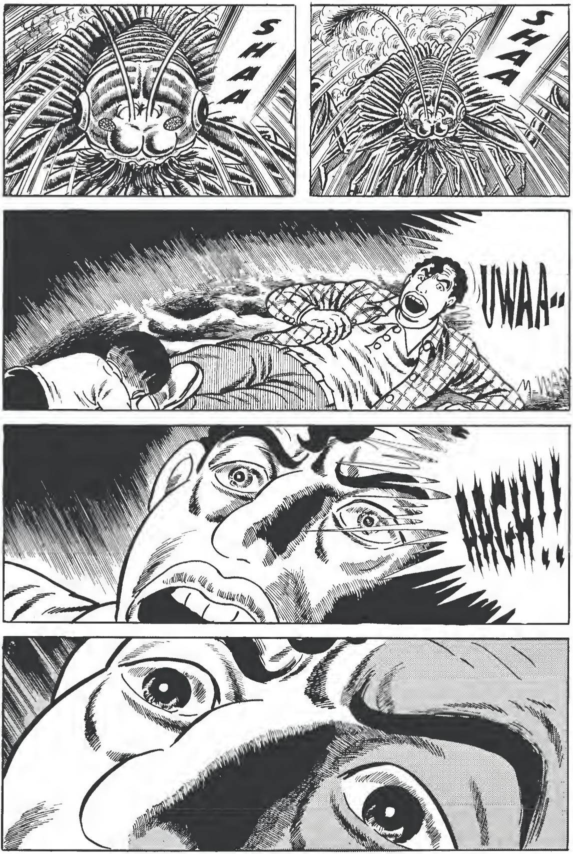

I'M GONNA USE THIS LITTLE SHIT TO DISTRACT IT!
WHUD
SHO! OH MY GOD!
NO!
SHAA
SHWA

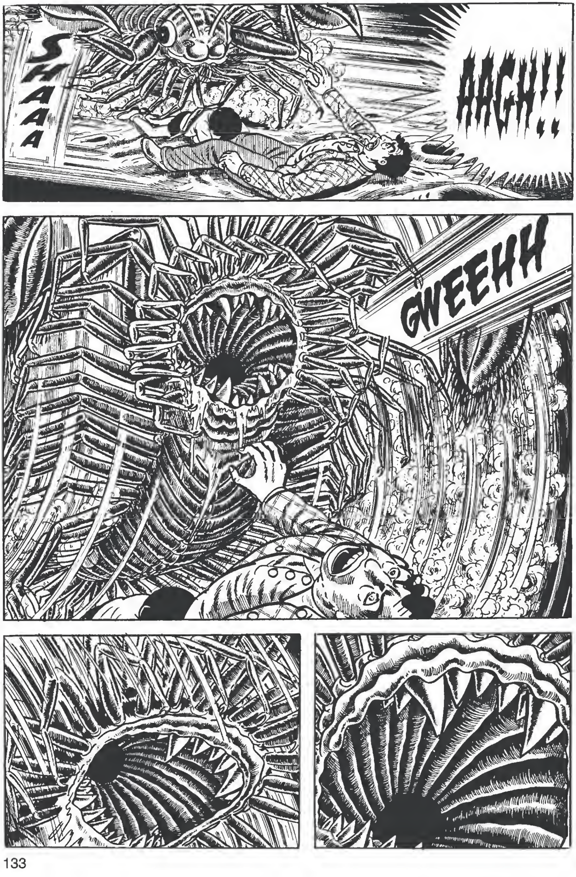

SHO!
IT GOT HIM!
AGGH! NOO!
GET MOVING! GET MOVING IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
EVERY-ONE, STOP!
HOLD ON!
SHO!
SHO!
WE'LL BE LEADING THAT MONSTER TO THE SCHOOL. EVERYONE WILL BE MASSACRED!
EVEN IF WE MAKE IT BACK TO SCHOOL BECAUSE IT STOPS TO EAT SHO, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN THEN...?

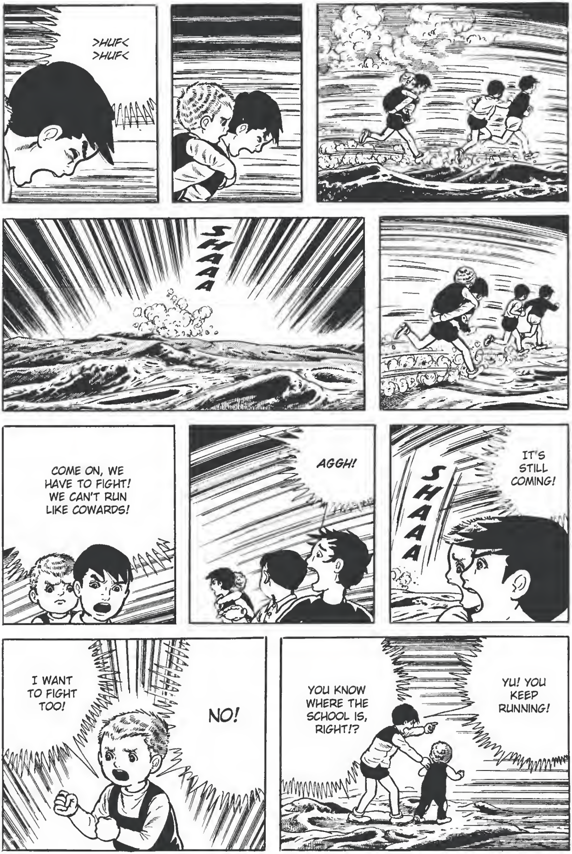

WE HAVE TO FIGHT!
WHAT?!
ARE YOU STUPID?!
H-HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT A THING LIKE THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW! W-WE'LL BREAK ITS FEELERS!
NOT ME! YOU IDIOTS GO AHEAD!
I'M RUNNING!
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE AT YOUR SCHOOL! I HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAVED!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO FIGHT!
YOU'RE AN ADULT! YOU'RE STRONGER THAN US! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

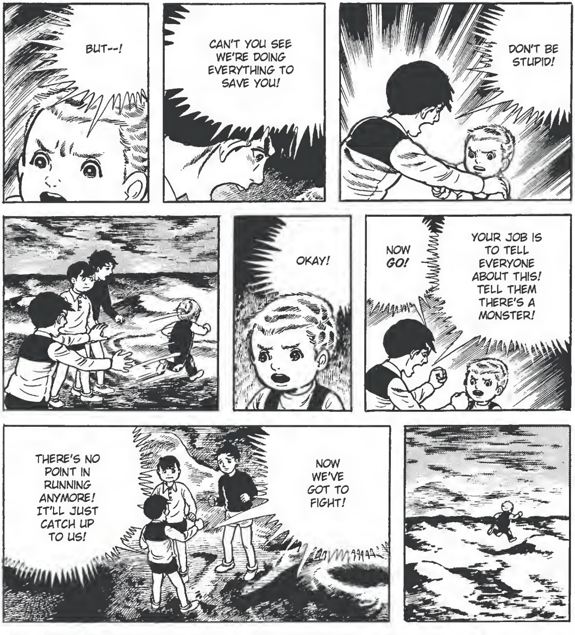

HA! I'M OUTTA HERE!
I WON'T LET YOU!
WHUDD
BAM
THAT DOES IT!
IT'S COMING!
SHAA
IT MUST BE DONE EATING HIM!

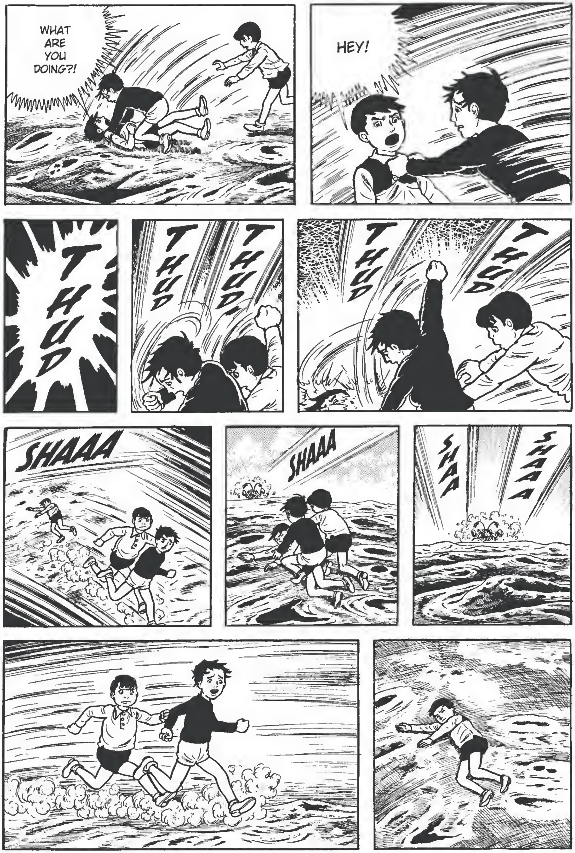

AGH!
WAAGH!
SHAAA
WOAAH!
BAM
BAM
BAM
LET GO OF ME!
SHAAA
EEYAA!

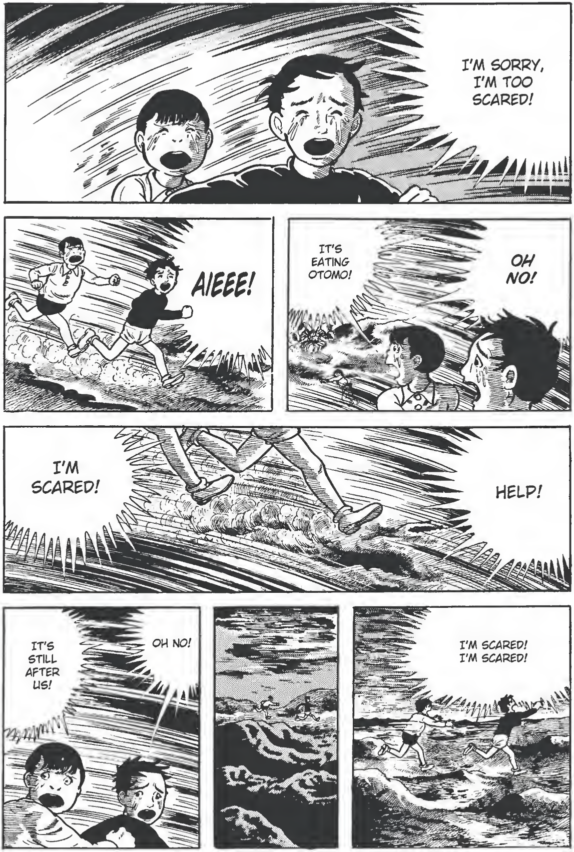

SHAA
SHAA
UWAA..
M-WAA
AAGH!!

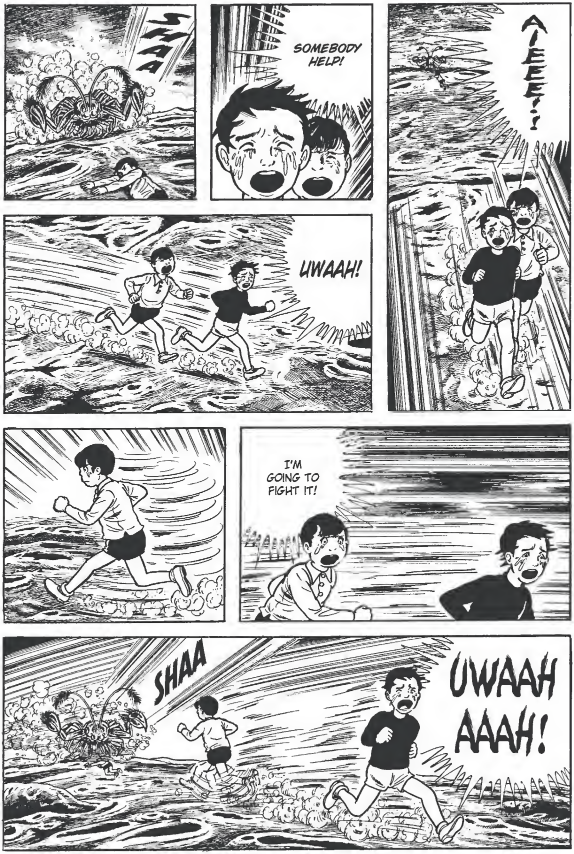

SHAAA
AAGH!!
GWEEHH

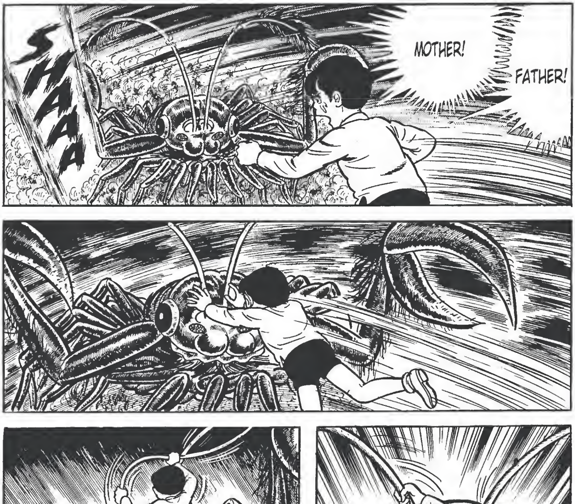

>HUF<
>HUF<
SHAAAA
COME ON, WE HAVE TO FIGHT! WE CAN'T RUN LIKE COWARDS!
AGGH!
SHAAAA
IT'S STILL COMING!
I WANT TO FIGHT TOO!
NO!
YU! YOU KEEP RUNNING!
YOU KNOW WHERE THE SCHOOL IS, RIGHT!?

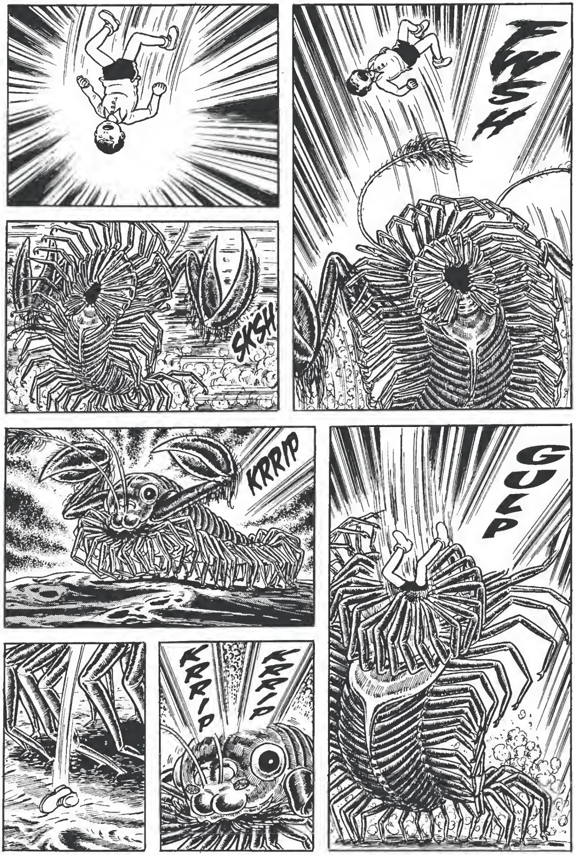

BUT--!
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING TO SAVE YOU!
DON'T BE STUPID!
OKAY!
NOW GO!
YOUR JOB IS TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS! TELL THEM THERE'S A MONSTER!
THERE'S NO POINT IN RUNNING ANYMORE! IT'LL JUST CATCH UP TO US!
NOW WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT!
COME ON! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!
ME TOO!
BUT I'M SCARED!

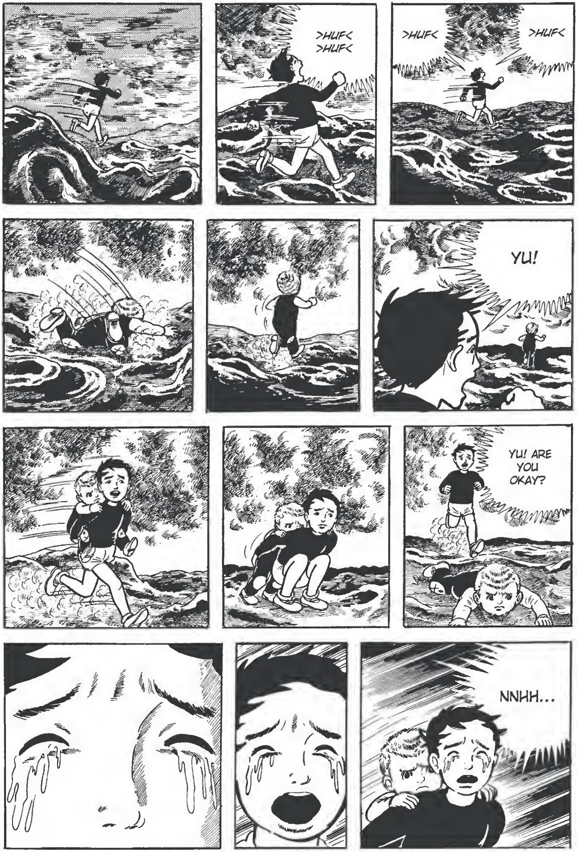

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAA
SHAAA

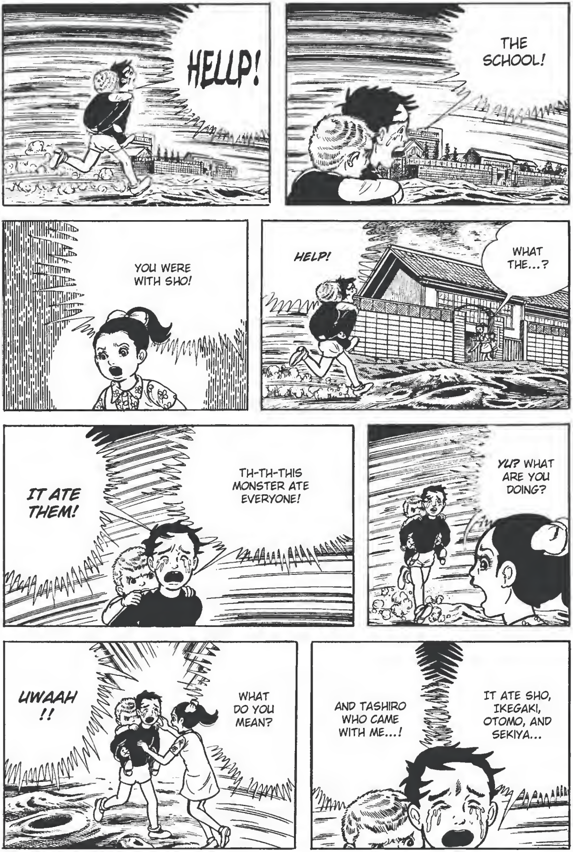

I'M SORRY, I'M TOO SCARED!
OH NO!
IT'S EATING OTOMO!
AIEEE!
HELP!
I'M SCARED!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!
OH NO!
IT'S STILL AFTER US!

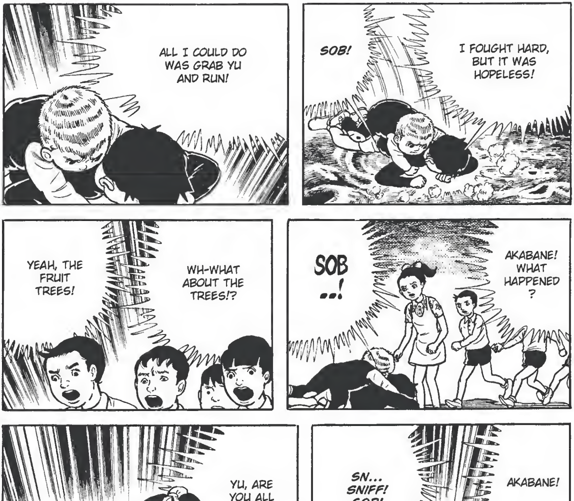

SHAA
SOMEBODY HELP!
AIEEE!!
UWAAH!
I'M GOING TO FIGHT IT!
SHAA
UWAAH AAAH!

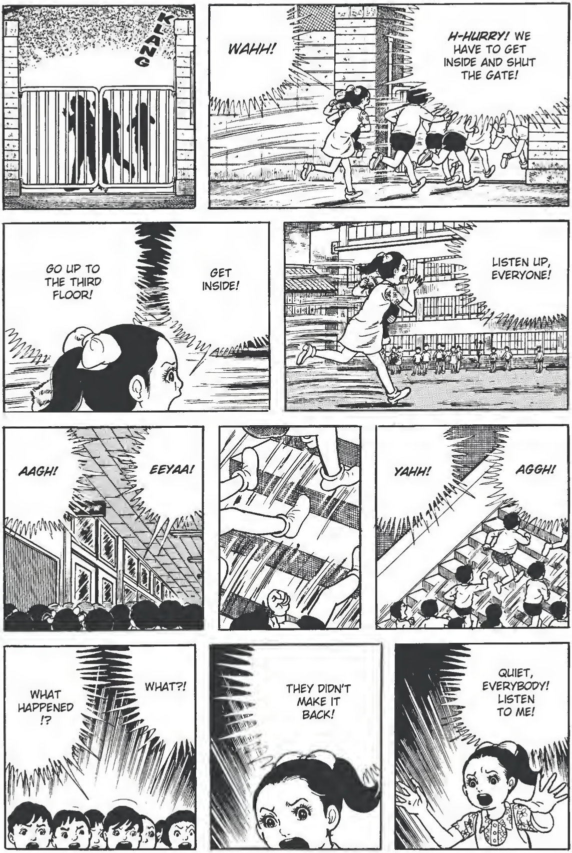

MOTHER!
FATHER!
SHAAA

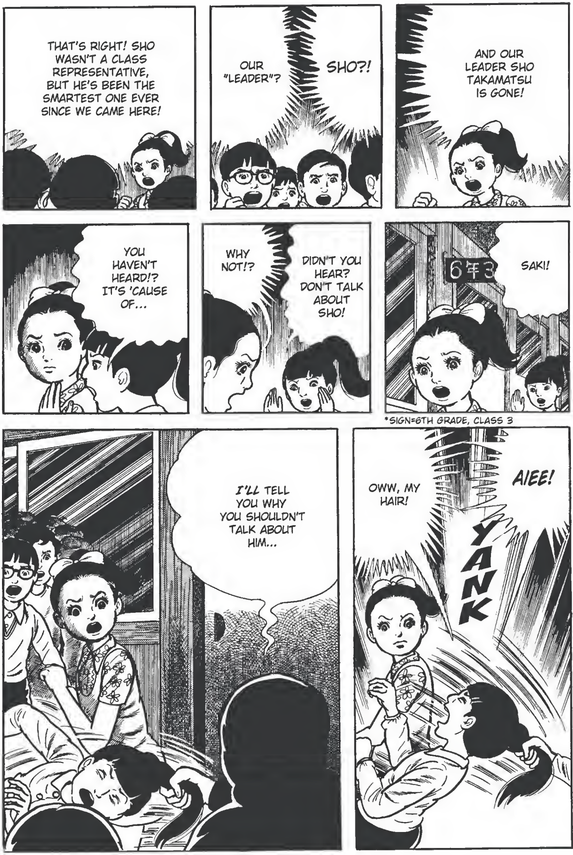

FWSH
SKSH
GULP
KRRIP
KRRIP
KRRIP


>HUF<
>HUF<
>HUF<
>HUF<
YU!
YU! ARE YOU OKAY?
NNHH...

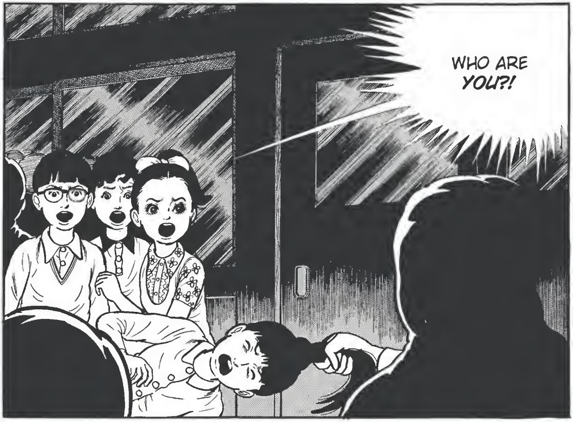

THE SCHOOL!
HELLP!
HELP!
WHAT THE...?
YOU WERE WITH SHO!
YU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TH-TH-THIS MONSTER ATE EVERYONE!
IT ATE THEM!
IT ATE SHO, IKEGAKI, OTOMO, AND SEKIYA...
AND TASHIRO WHO CAME WITH ME...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UWAAH !!


I FOUGHT HARD, BUT IT WAS HOPELESS!
SOB!
ALL I COULD DO WAS GRAB YU AND RUN!
AKABANE! WHAT HAPPENED?
SOB...!
WH-WHAT ABOUT THE TREES!?
YEAH, THE FRUIT TREES!
AKABANE!
SN... SNIFF! SOB!
YU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS MONSTER CHASED US! IT WAS A LOT SCARIER THAN THE KIND YOU SEE ON TV! IT ATE EVERYBODY ELSE!
THE MONSTER'S GONNA ATTACK THE SCHOOL! I RAN HERE TO TELL YOU!
WAHH!


H-HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE AND SHUT THE GATE!
WAHH!
KLANG
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
GET INSIDE!
GO UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR!
AGGH!
YAHH!
EEYAA!
AAGH!
QUIET, EVERYBODY! LISTEN TO ME!
THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK!
WHAT?!
WHAT HAPPENED!?

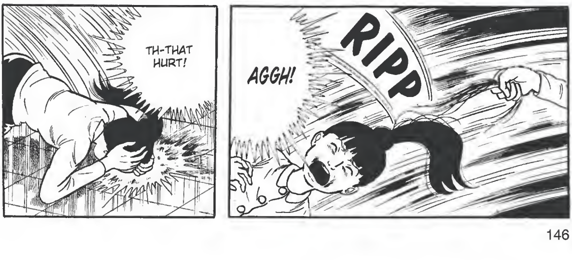

THAT'S RIGHT! SHO WASN'T A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, BUT HE'S BEEN THE SMARTEST ONE EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE!
OUR "LEADER"?
SHO?!
AND OUR LEADER SHO TAKAMATSU IS GONE!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD!? IT'S 'CAUSE OF...
WHY NOT!?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? DON'T TALK ABOUT SHO!
6年3
SAKI!
I'LL TELL YOU WHY YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT HIM...
OWW, MY HAIR!
AIEE!
YANK

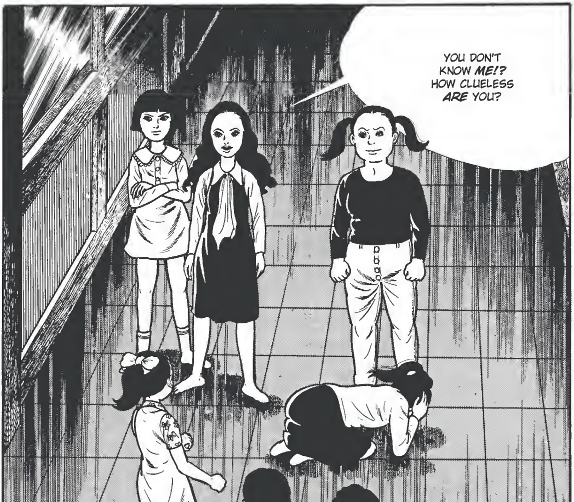
*SIGN=6TH GRADE, CLASS 3

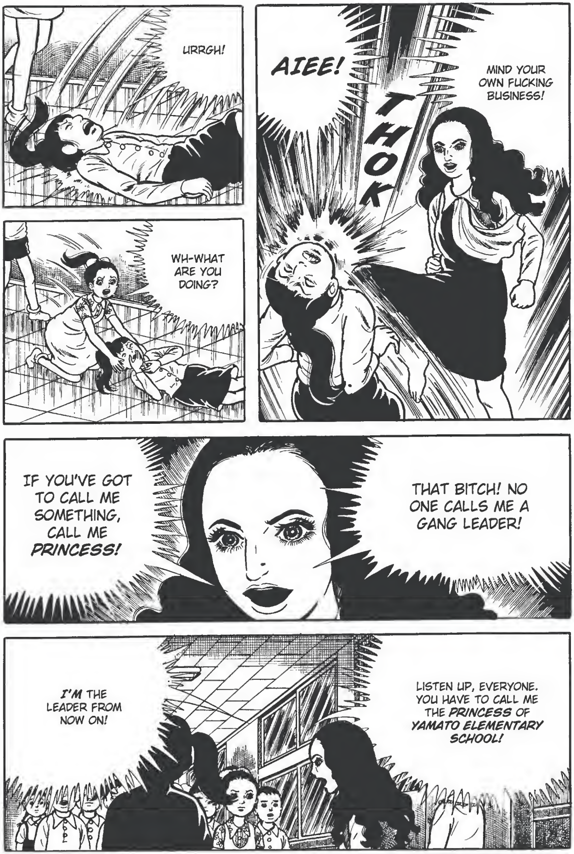


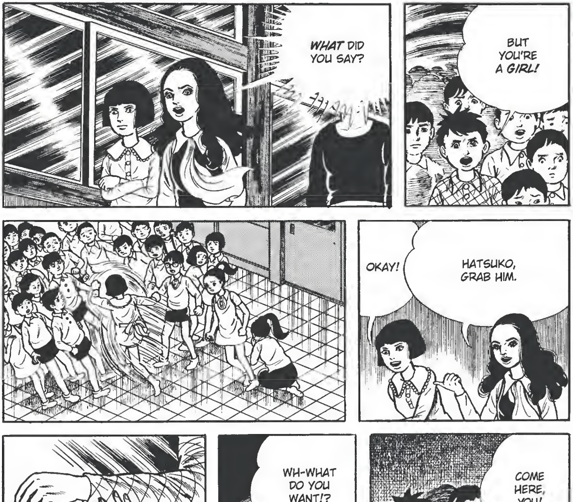
CHAPTER 13:

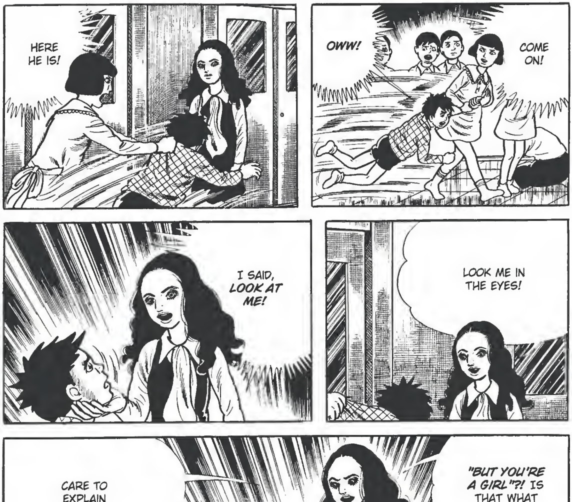
THE NEW LEADER

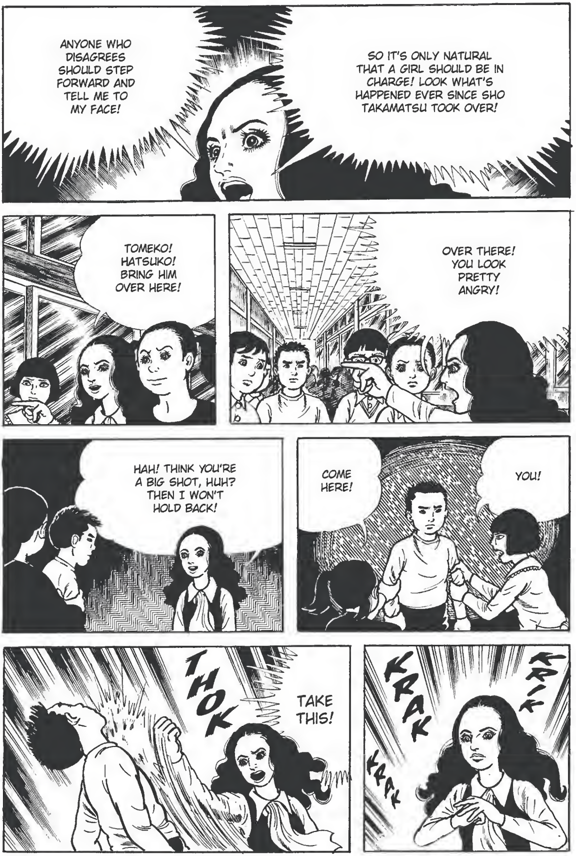

RIPP
AGGH!
TH-THAT HURT!

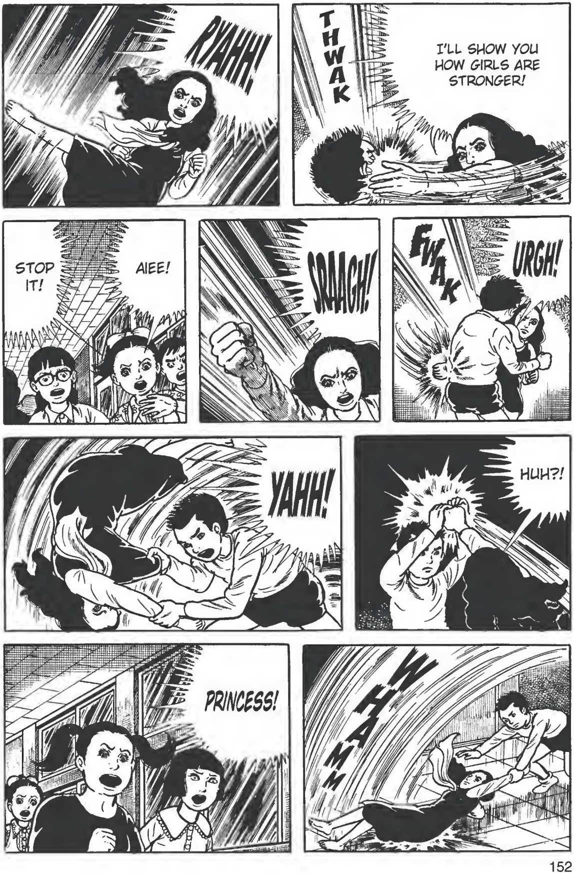

YOU DON'T KNOW *ME!?* HOW CLUELESS *ARE* YOU?
YOU *REALLY* DON'T KNOW WHO I AM?
N-NO...I DON'T...
SHE'S THE BOSS OF A GIRL GANG...
A WHAT?

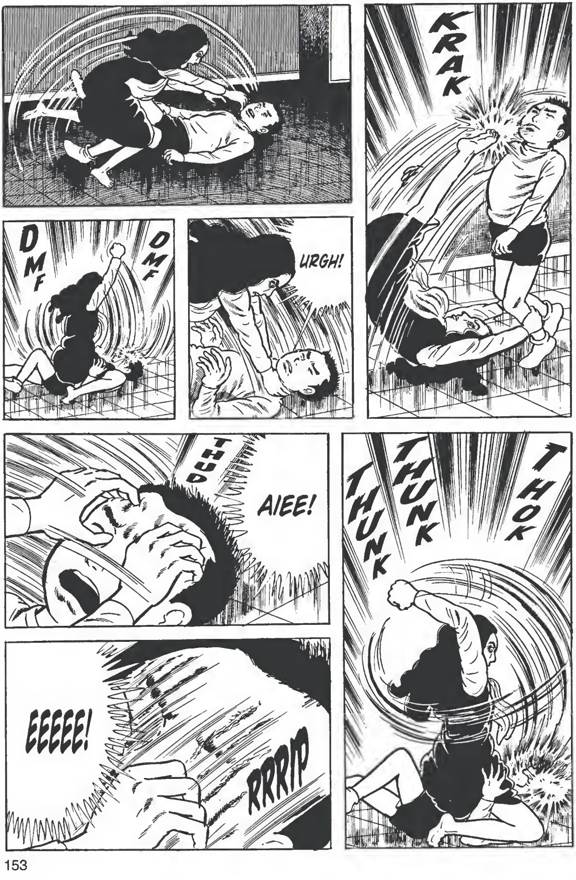

MIND YOUR OWN FUCKING BUSINESS!
THOK
AIEE!
URRGH!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT BITCH! NO ONE CALLS ME A GANG LEADER!
IF YOU'VE GOT TO CALL ME SOMETHING, CALL ME *PRINCESS!*
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. YOU HAVE TO CALL ME THE *PRINCESS* OF *YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!*
I'M THE LEADER FROM NOW ON!

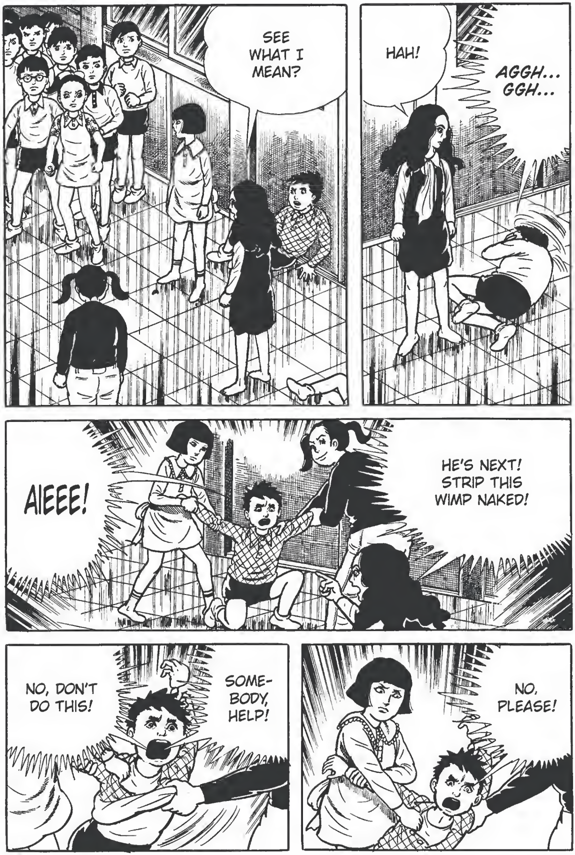

BUT YOU'RE A *GIRL!*
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HATSUKO, GRAB HIM.
OKAY!
COME HERE, YOU!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
DON'T YOU RUN AWAY LIKE SOME SISSY!
L-LET GO OF ME!
ARGH!

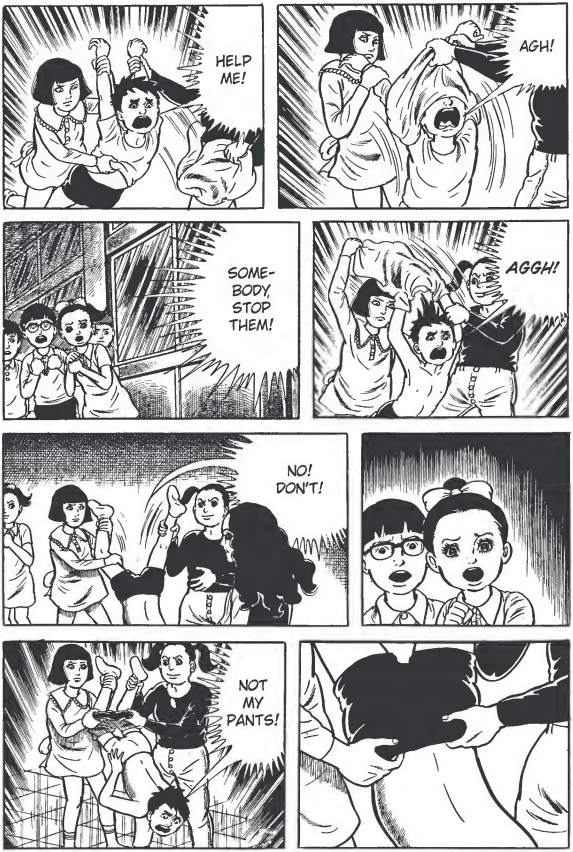

HERE HE IS!
OWW!
COME ON!
I SAID, *LOOK AT ME!*
LOOK ME IN THE EYES!
"BUT YOU'RE A GIRL"?! IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?
CARE TO EXPLAIN THAT?
WHY *CAN'T* A GIRL BE THE BOSS?
THINK ABOUT IT! AT OUR AGE, WE'RE MORE DEVELOPED THAN YOU BOYS, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY!
W-W-WELL...
G-GIRLS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE BOSS ...

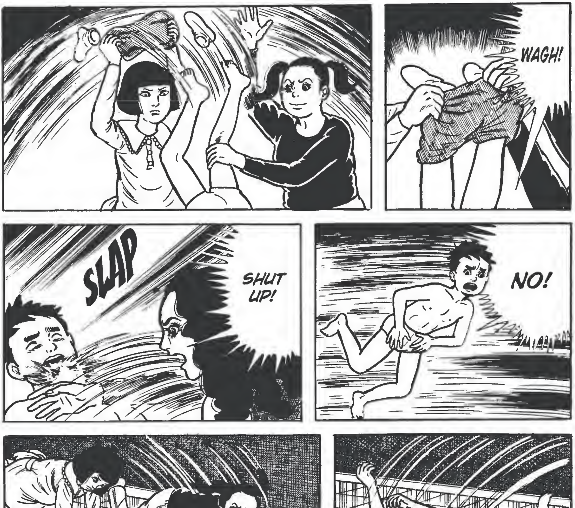

SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT A GIRL SHOULD BE IN CHARGE! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED EVER SINCE SHO TAKAMATSU TOOK OVER!
ANYONE WHO DISAGREES SHOULD STEP FORWARD AND TELL ME TO MY FACE!
OVER THERE! YOU LOOK PRETTY ANGRY!
TOMEKO! HATSUKO! BRING HIM OVER HERE!
YOU!
COME HERE!
HAH! THINK YOU'RE A BIG SHOT, HUH? THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK!
KRIK
KRAK
KRAK
TAKE THIS!
THOK

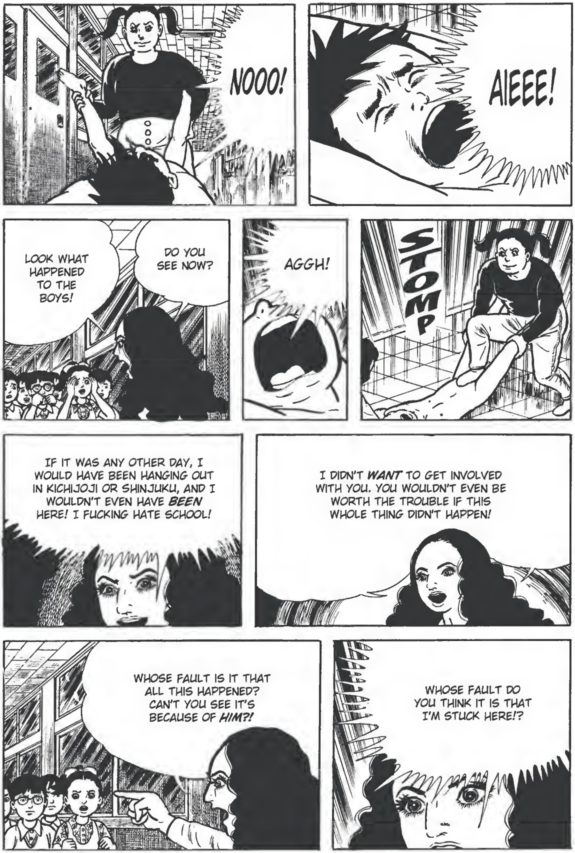

RYAHH!
THWAK
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW GIRLS ARE STRONGER!
STOP IT!
AIEE!
SRAAGH!
FWAK
URGH!
YAHH!
HUH?!
PRINCESS!
WHAMM

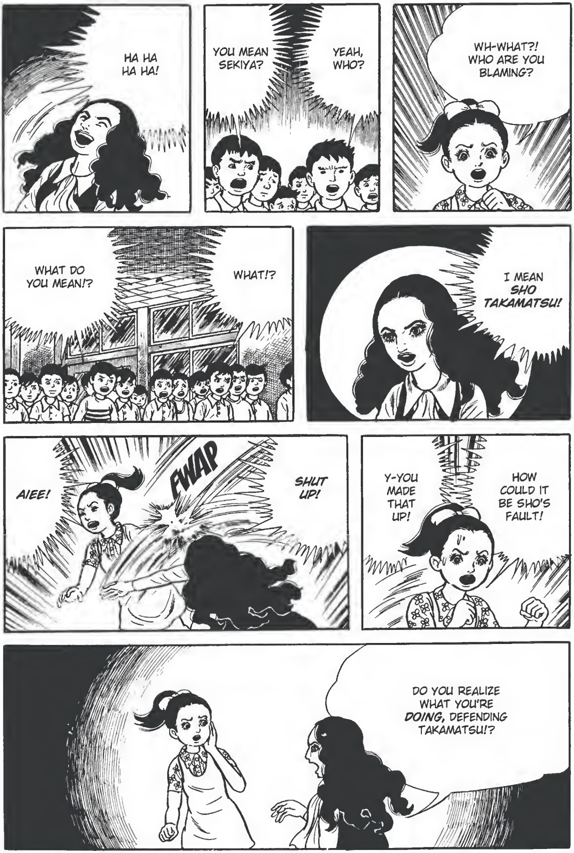

KRAK
URGH!
DMF
DMF
THOK
THUNK
THUNK
THUD
AIEE!
RRRIP
EEEEE!

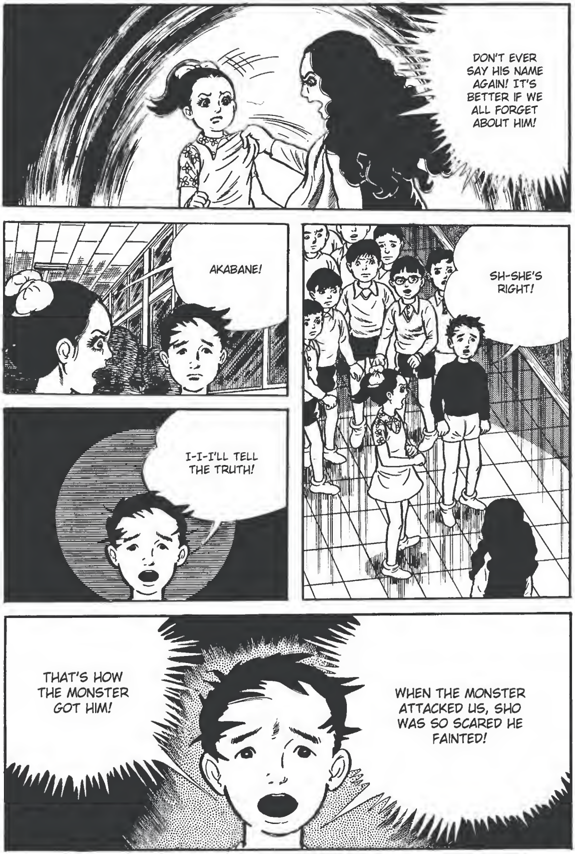

SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HAH!
AGGH... GGH...
AIEEE!
HE'S NEXT! STRIP THIS WIMP NAKED!
NO, DON'T DO THIS!
SOMEBODY, HELP!
NO, PLEASE!

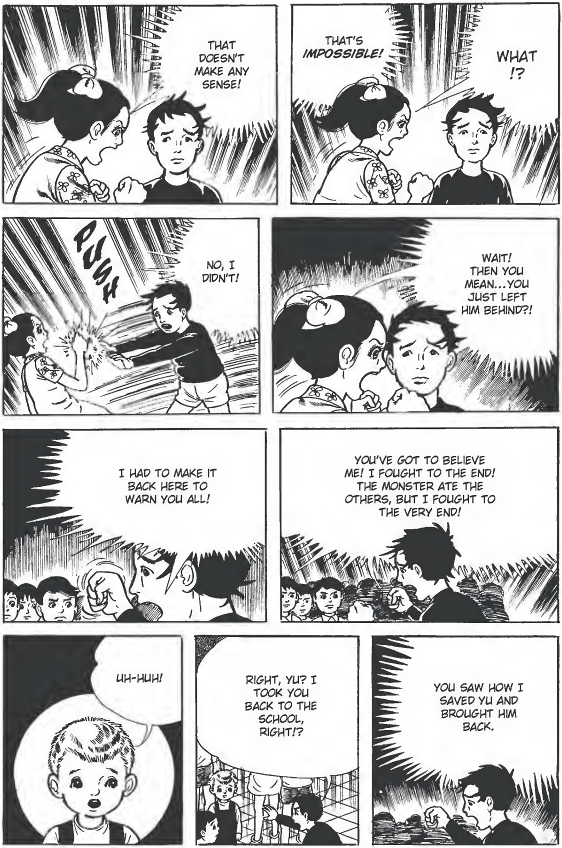

HELP ME!
AGH!
SOME-BODY, STOP THEM!
AGGH!
NO! DON'T!
NOT MY PANTS!

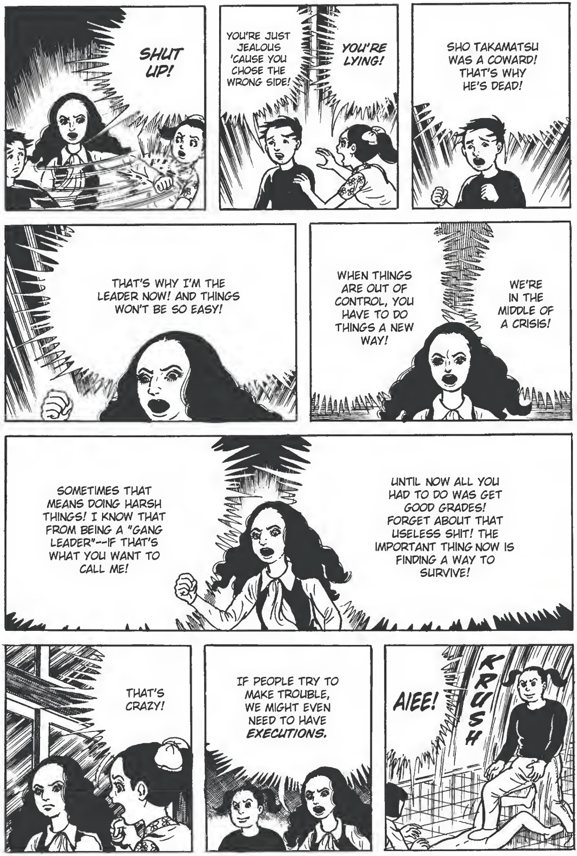

WAGH!
SLAP
SHUT UP!
NO!
AIEEE!

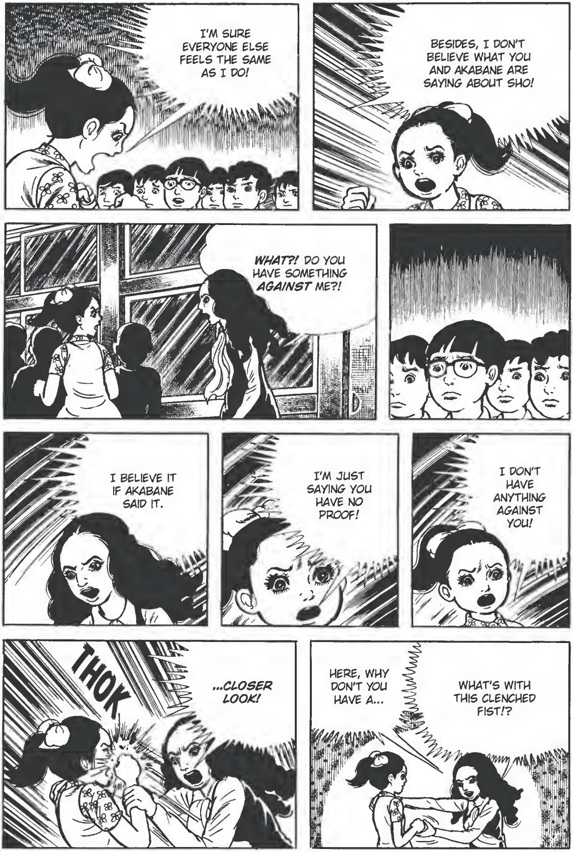

NOOO!
AIEEE!
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOYS!
DO YOU SEE NOW?
AGGH!
STOMP
IF IT WAS ANY OTHER DAY, I WOULD HAVE BEEN HANGING OUT IN KICHIJOJI OR SHINJUKU, AND I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE *BEEN* HERE! I FUCKING HATE SCHOOL!
I DIDN'T *WANT* TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOU. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE WORTH THE TROUBLE IF THIS WHOLE THING DIDN'T HAPPEN!
WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT ALL THIS HAPPENED? CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S BECAUSE OF *HIM?!*
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT I'M STUCK HERE!?

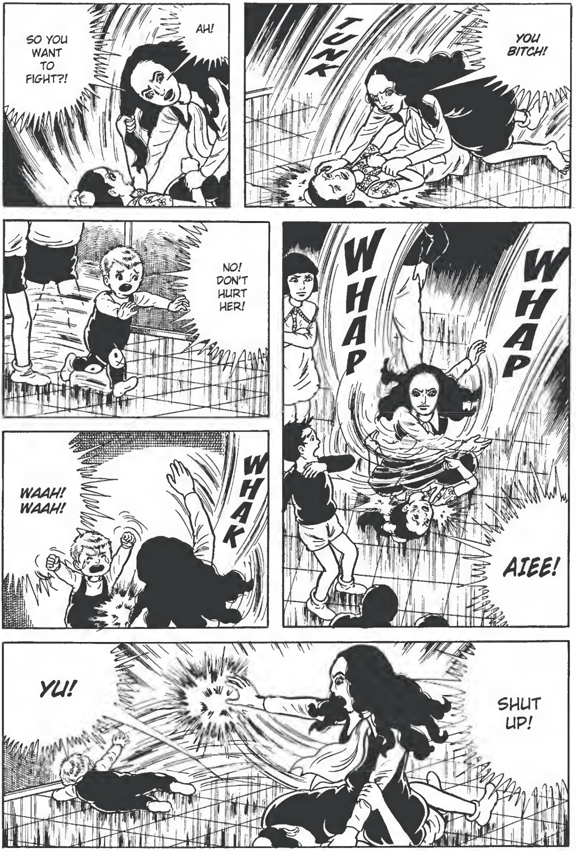

HA HA HA HA!
YOU MEAN SEKIYA?
YEAH, WHO?
WH-WHAT?! WHO ARE YOU BLAMING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WHAT!?
I MEAN *SHO TAKAMATSU!*
AIEE!
FWAP
SHUT UP!
Y-YOU MADE THAT UP!
HOW COULD IT BE SHO'S FAULT!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE *DOING,* DEFENDING TAKAMATSU!?

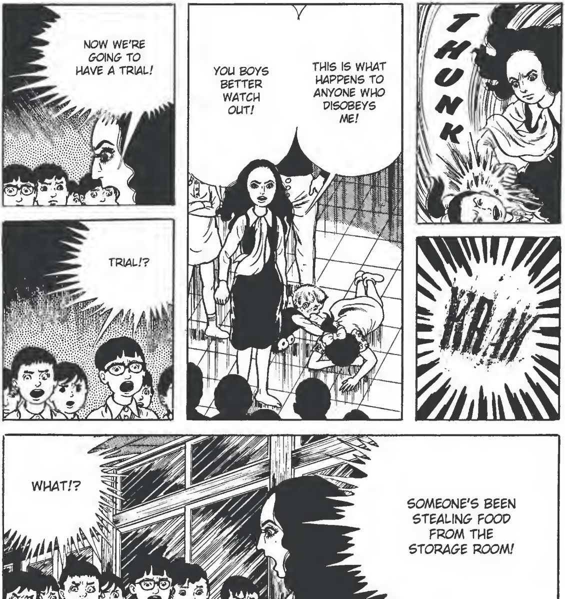

DON'T EVER SAY HIS NAME AGAIN! IT'S BETTER IF WE ALL FORGET ABOUT HIM!
SH-SHE'S RIGHT!
AKABANE!
I-I-I'LL TELL THE TRUTH!
WHEN THE MONSTER ATTACKED US, SHO WAS SO SCARED HE FAINTED!
THAT'S HOW THE MONSTER GOT HIM!

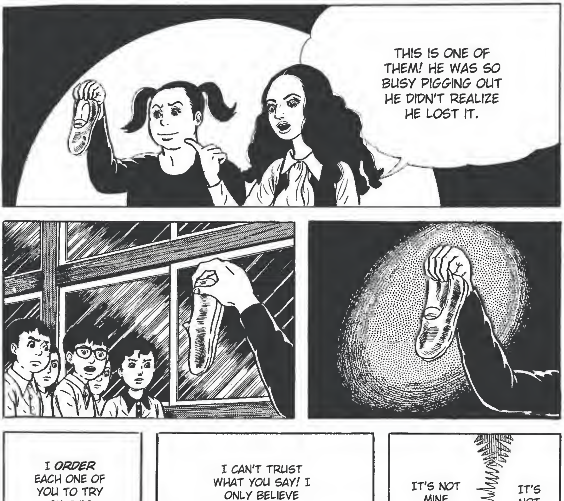

WHAT !?
THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
WAIT! THEN YOU MEAN...YOU JUST LEFT HIM BEHIND?!
NO, I DIDN'T!
PUSH
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! I FOUGHT TO THE END! THE MONSTER ATE THE OTHERS, BUT I FOUGHT TO THE VERY END!
I HAD TO MAKE IT BACK HERE TO WARN YOU ALL!
YOU SAW HOW I SAVED YU AND BROUGHT HIM BACK.
RIGHT, YU? I TOOK YOU BACK TO THE SCHOOL, RIGHT!?
UH-HUH!

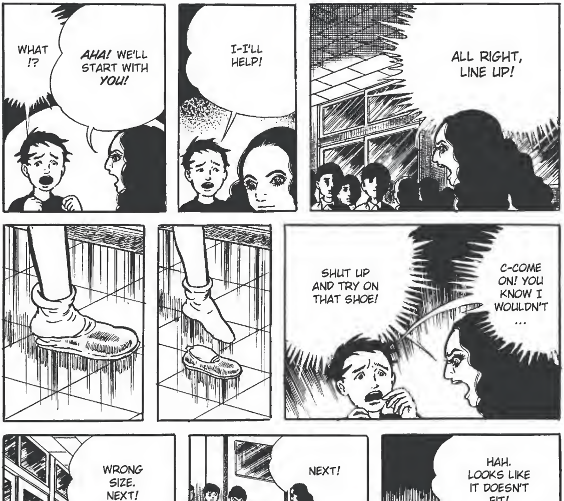

SHUT UP!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE YOU CHOSE THE WRONG SIDE!
YOU'RE LYING!
SHO TAKAMATSU WAS A COWARD! THAT'S WHY HE'S DEAD!
THAT'S WHY I'M THE LEADER NOW! AND THINGS WON'T BE SO EASY!
WHEN THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL, YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS A NEW WAY!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS!
SOMETIMES THAT MEANS DOING HARSH THINGS! I KNOW THAT FROM BEING A "GANG LEADER"--IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL ME!
UNTIL NOW ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS GET GOOD GRADES! FORGET ABOUT THAT USELESS SHIT! THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS FINDING A WAY TO SURVIVE!
THAT'S CRAZY!
IF PEOPLE TRY TO MAKE TROUBLE, WE MIGHT EVEN NEED TO HAVE *EXECUTIONS.*
AIEE!
KRUSH

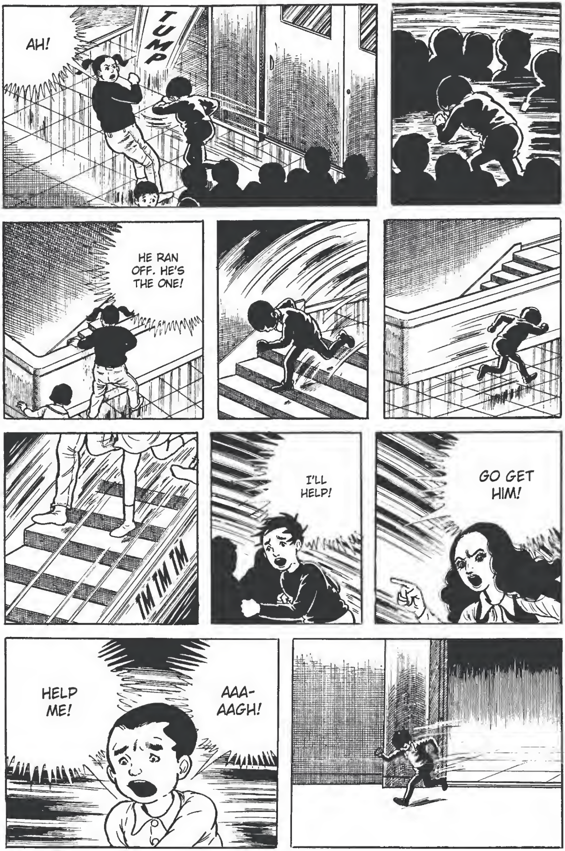

BESIDES, I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU AND AKABANE ARE SAYING ABOUT SHO!
I'M SURE EVERYONE ELSE FEELS THE SAME AS I DO!
WHAT?! DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING *AGAINST* ME?!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU!
I'M JUST SAYING YOU HAVE NO PROOF!
I BELIEVE IT IF AKABANE SAID IT.
WHAT'S WITH THIS CLENCHED FIST!?
HERE, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A...
THOK
...CLOSER LOOK!

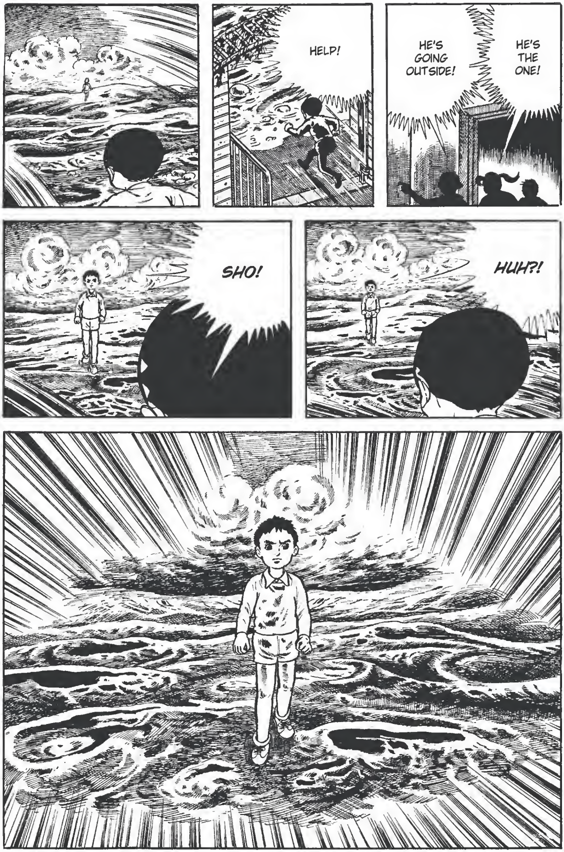

SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?!
AH!
TUNK
YOU BITCH!
NO! DON'T HURT HER!
WHAP
WHAP
AIEE!
WAAH! WAAH!
WHAK
YU!
SHUT UP!

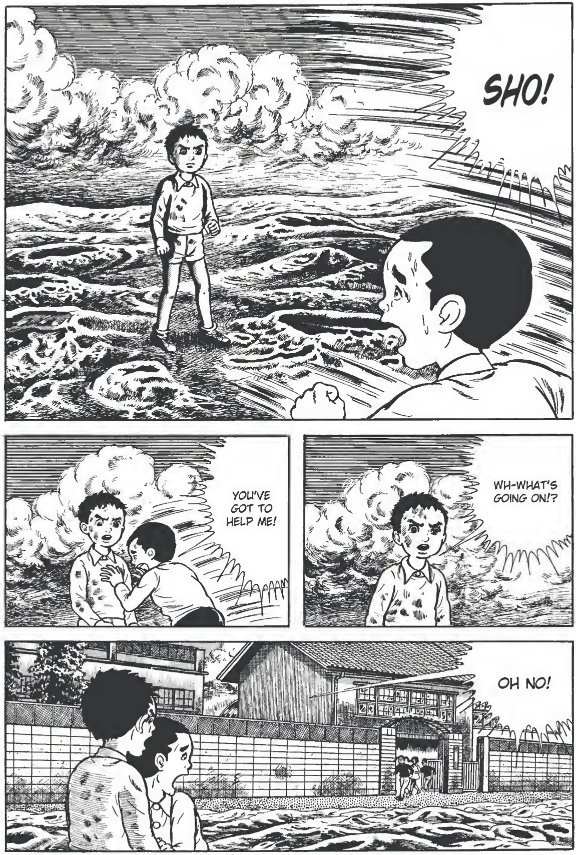

THUNK
KRAK
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS ME!
YOU BOYS BETTER WATCH OUT!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A TRIAL!
TRIAL!?
SOMEONE'S BEEN STEALING FOOD FROM THE STORAGE ROOM!
WHAT!?
THE CULPRIT IS A *BOY!*
SOMEONE WITH ONLY ONE SHOE!

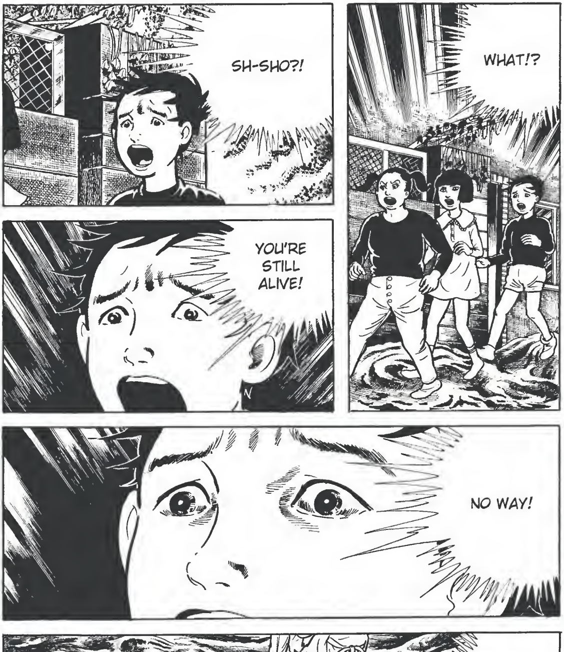

THIS IS ONE OF THEM! HE WAS SO BUSY PIGGING OUT HE DIDN'T REALIZE HE LOST IT.
IT'S NOT MINE!
IT'S NOT MINE EITHER!
I CAN'T TRUST WHAT YOU SAY! I ONLY BELIEVE HARD EVIDENCE AND MYSELF!
I *ORDER* EACH ONE OF YOU TO TRY ON THIS SHOE!
THE ONE WHOSE FOOT FITS IS THE CULPRIT!
TOMEKO! HATSUKO! I NEED YOU TO KEEP A WATCH AND MAKE SURE NO ONE ESCAPES!
GOT IT!

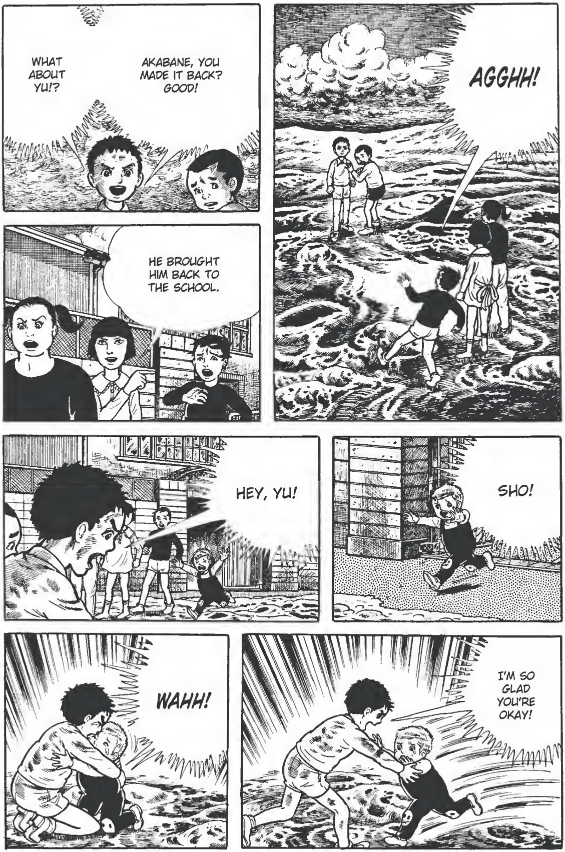

AHA! WE'LL START WITH YOU!
WHAT !?
I-I'LL HELP!
ALL RIGHT, LINE UP!
C-COME ON! YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T ...
SHUT UP AND TRY ON THAT SHOE!
WRONG SIZE. NEXT!
NEXT!
HAH. LOOKS LIKE IT DOESN'T FIT!
NEXT!

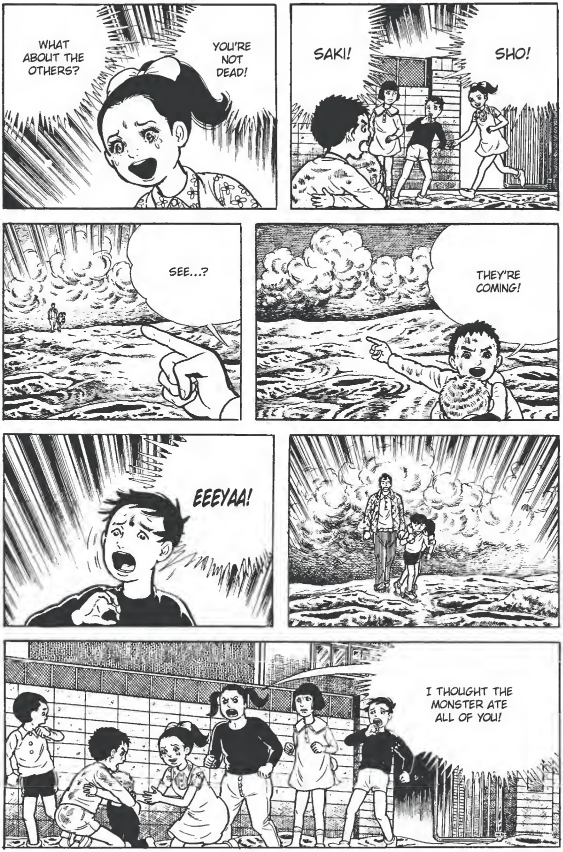

AH!
TUMP
HE RAN OFF. HE'S THE ONE!
TM TM TM
I'LL HELP!
GO GET HIM!
HELP ME!
AAA-AAGH!

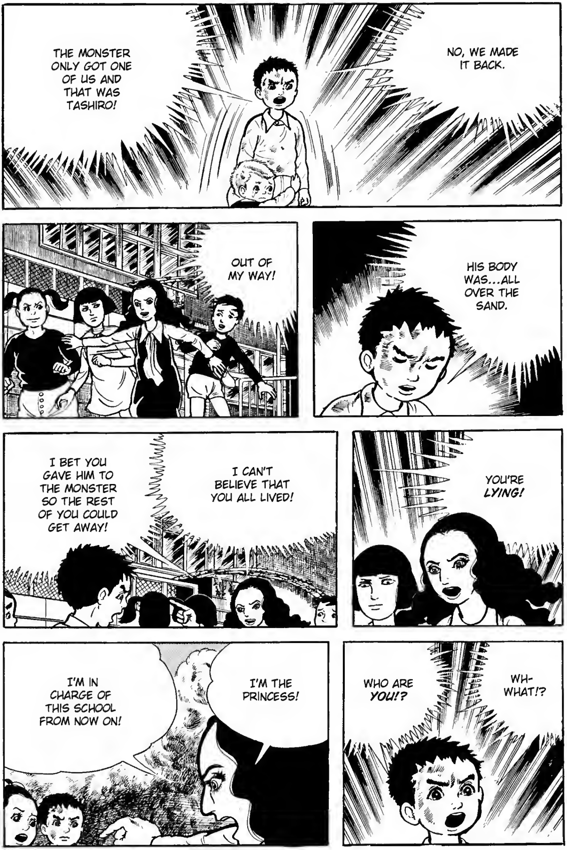

HELP!
HE'S GOING OUTSIDE!
HE'S THE ONE!
SHO!
HUH?!

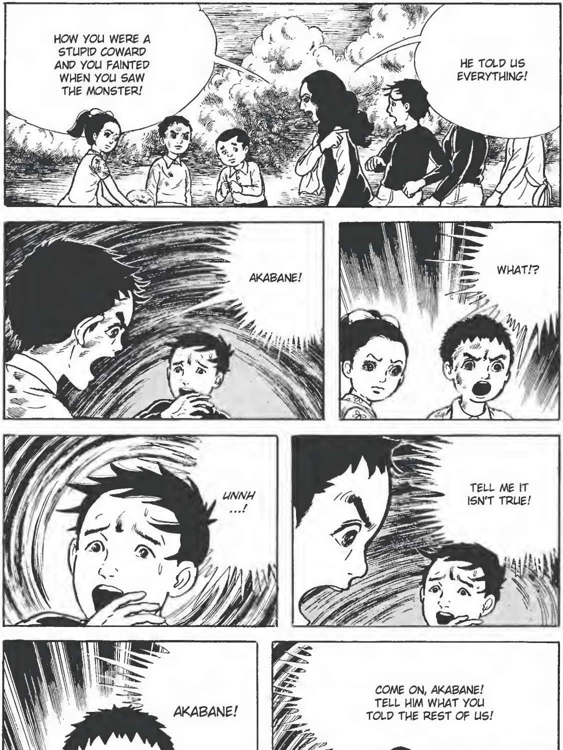

SHO!
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
OH NO!

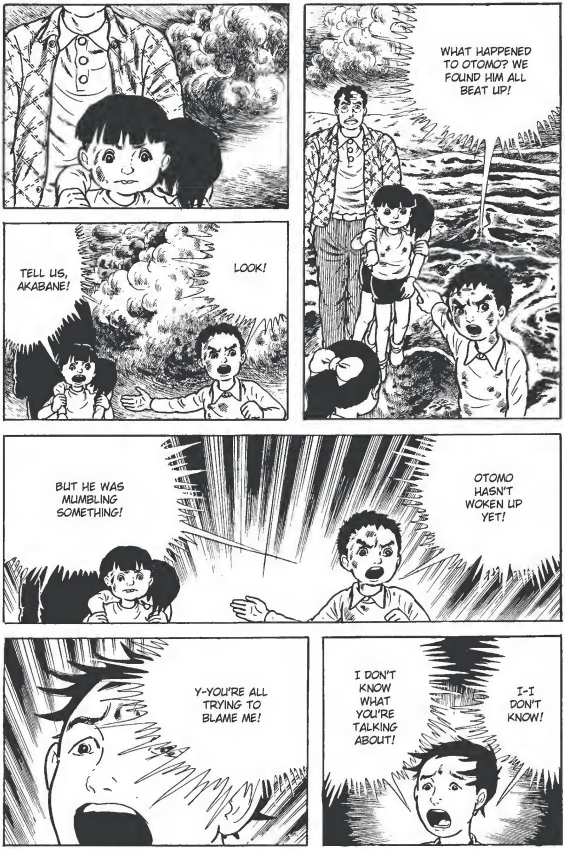

SH-SHO?!
WHAT!?
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
NO WAY!
IT'S A GHOST!

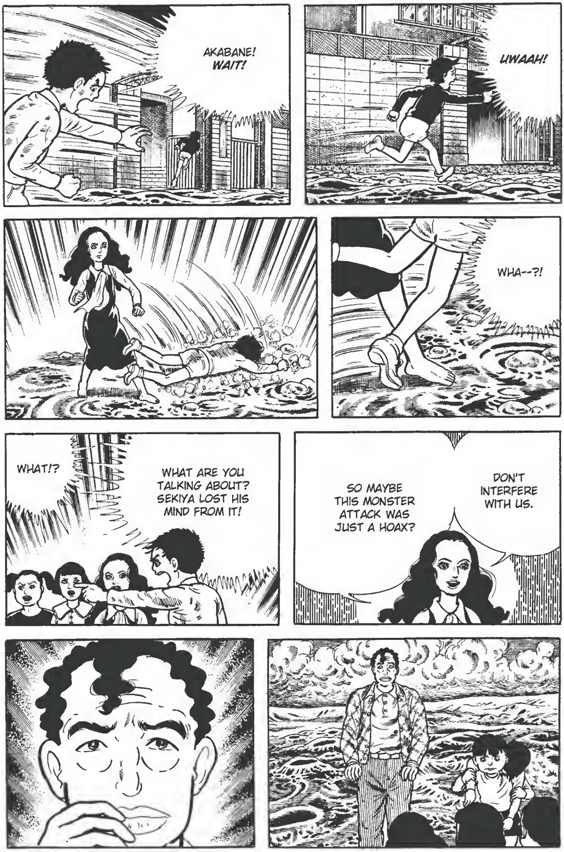

AKABANE, YOU MADE IT BACK? GOOD!
WHAT ABOUT YU!?
HE BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE SCHOOL.
AGGHH!
HEY, YU!
SHO!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!
WAHH!

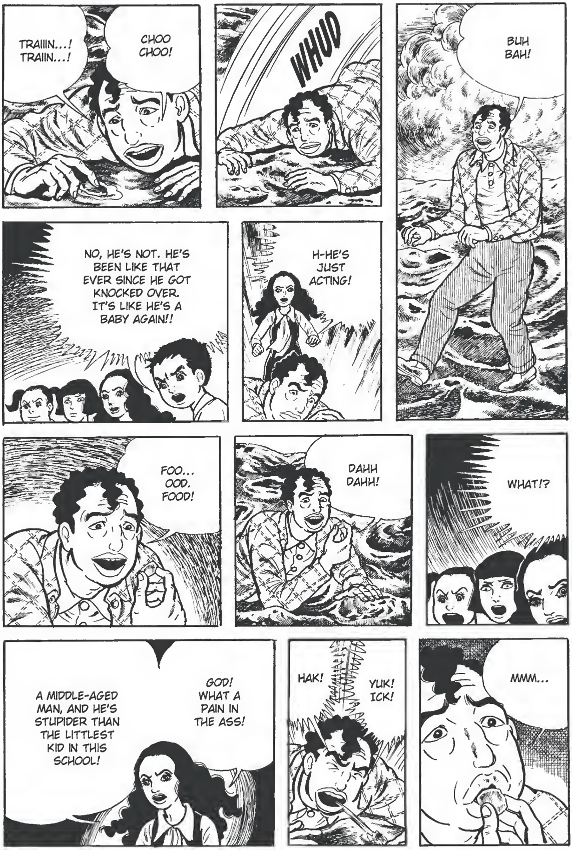

YOU'RE NOT DEAD!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
SAKI!
SHO!
SEE...?
THEY'RE COMING!
EEEYAA!
I THOUGHT THE MONSTER ATE ALL OF YOU!

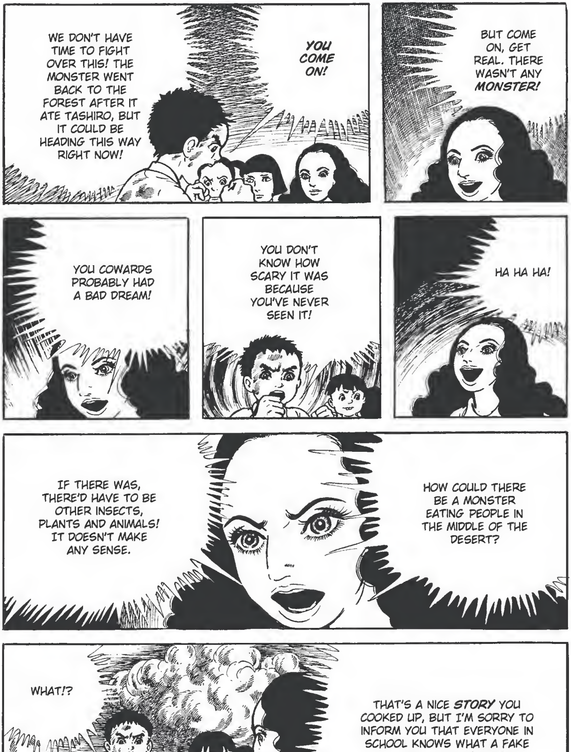

NO, WE MADE IT BACK.
THE MONSTER ONLY GOT ONE OF US AND THAT WAS TASHIRO!
HIS BODY WAS...ALL OVER THE SAND.
OUT OF MY WAY!
YOU'RE *LYING!*
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ALL LIVED!
I BET YOU GAVE HIM TO THE MONSTER SO THE REST OF YOU COULD GET AWAY!
WH-WHAT!?
WHO ARE *YOU!?*
I'M THE PRINCESS!
I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS SCHOOL FROM NOW ON!

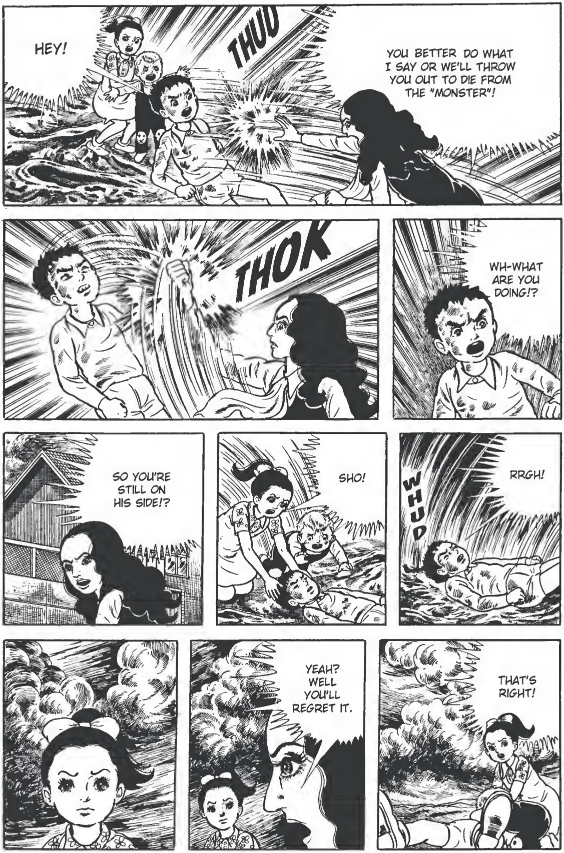

HE TOLD US EVERYTHING!
HOW YOU WERE A STUPID COWARD AND YOU FAINTED WHEN YOU SAW THE MONSTER!
WHAT!?
AKABANE!
TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!
UNNH ...!
COME ON, AKABANE! TELL HIM WHAT YOU TOLD THE REST OF US!
AKABANE!

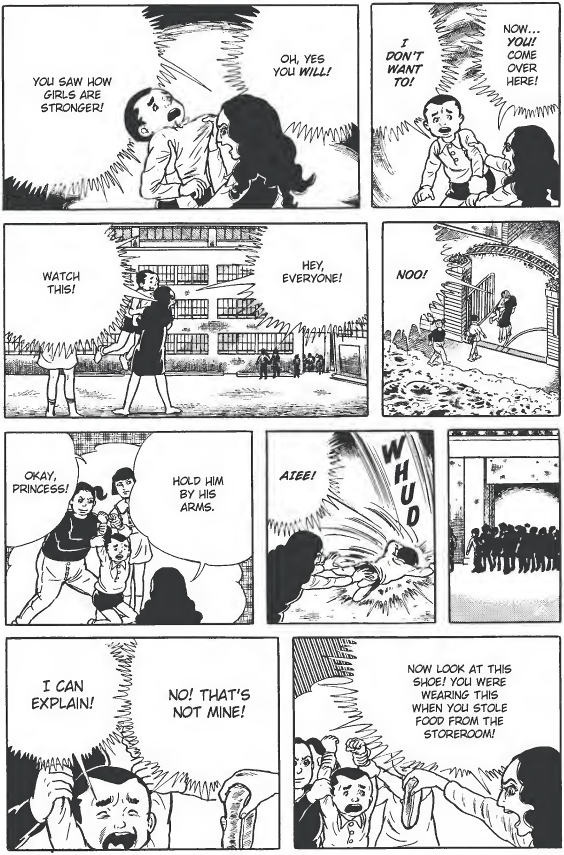

WHAT HAPPENED TO OTOMO? WE FOUND HIM ALL BEAT UP!
LOOK!
TELL US, AKABANE!
OTOMO HASN'T WOKEN UP YET!
BUT HE WAS MUMBLING SOMETHING!
I-I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
Y-YOU'RE ALL TRYING TO BLAME ME!

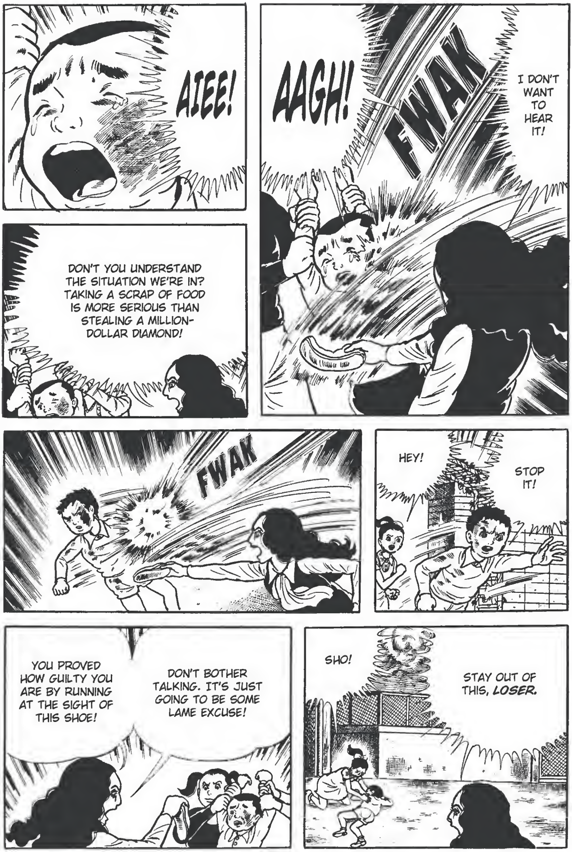

AKABANE! *WAIT!*
UWAAH!
WHA--?!
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SEKIYA LOST HIS MIND FROM IT!
SO MAYBE THIS MONSTER ATTACK WAS JUST A HOAX?
DON'T INTERFERE WITH US.

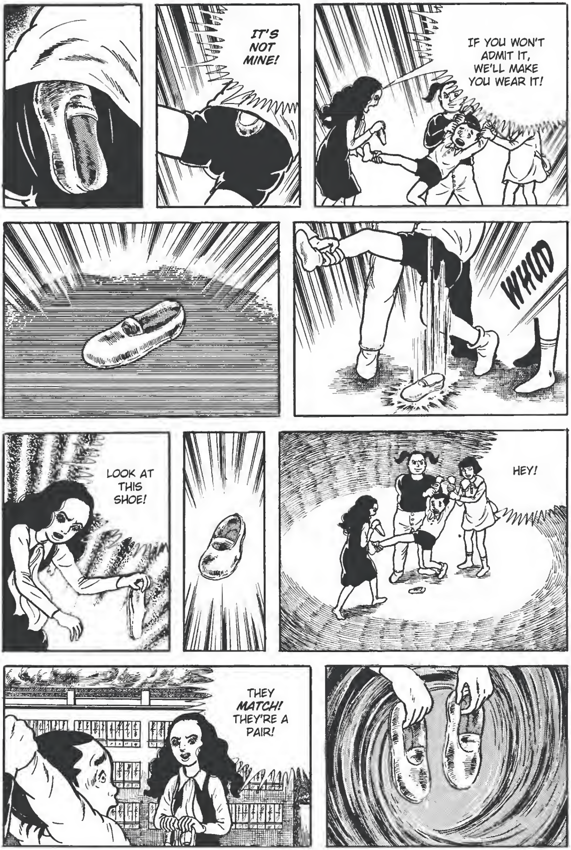

BUH BAH!
WHUD
CHOO CHOO!
TRAIIN...! TRAIIN...!
H-HE'S JUST ACTING!
NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HE GOT KNOCKED OVER. IT'S LIKE HE'S A BABY AGAIN!!
WHAT!?
DAHH DAHH!
FOO... OOD. FOOD!
MMM...
YUK! ICK!
HAK!
GOD! WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!
A MIDDLE-AGED MAN, AND HE'S STUPIDER THAN THE LITTLEST KID IN THIS SCHOOL!

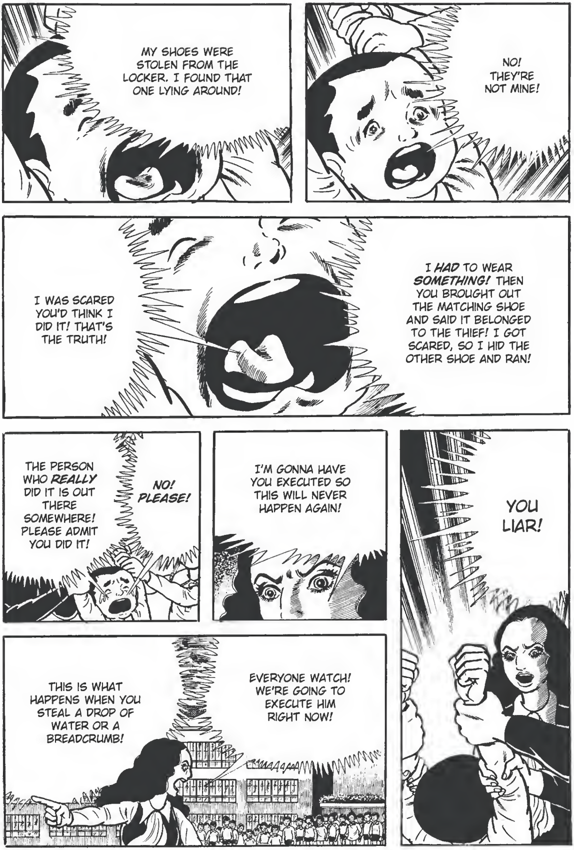

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIGHT OVER THIS! THE MONSTER WENT BACK TO THE FOREST AFTER IT ATE TASHIRO, BUT IT COULD BE HEADING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW!
YOU COME ON!
BUT COME ON, GET REAL. THERE WASN'T ANY ***MONSTER!***
YOU COWARDS PROBABLY HAD A BAD DREAM!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SCARY IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT!
HA HA HA!
IF THERE WAS, THERE'D HAVE TO BE OTHER INSECTS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS! IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
HOW COULD THERE BE A MONSTER EATING PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?
WHAT!?
THAT'S A NICE ***STORY*** YOU COOKED UP, BUT I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT EVERYONE IN SCHOOL KNOWS WHAT A FAKE YOU ARE, AND EVERYONE ***HATES*** YOU NOW!

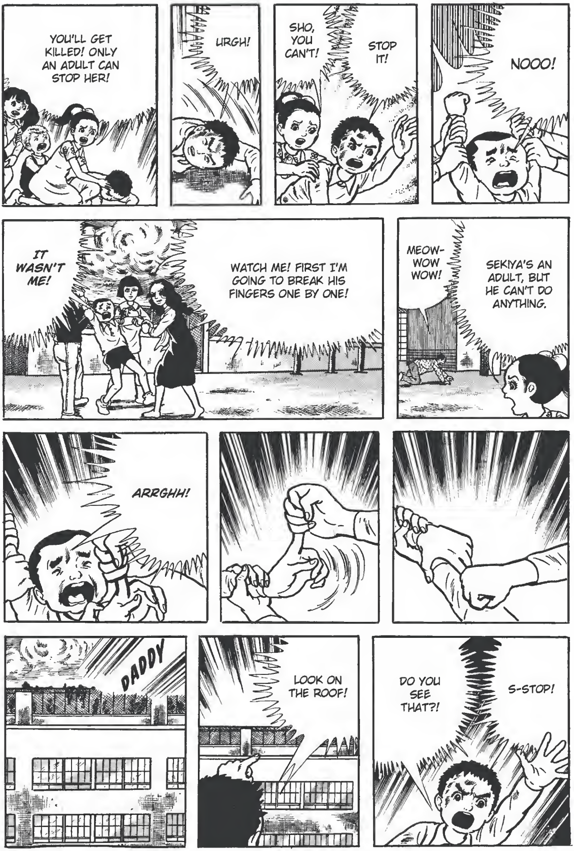

YOU BETTER DO WHAT I SAY OR WE'LL THROW YOU OUT TO DIE FROM THE "MONSTER"!
THUD
HEY!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THOK
RRGH!
WHUD
SHO!
SO YOU'RE STILL ON HIS SIDE!?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH? WELL YOU'LL REGRET IT.

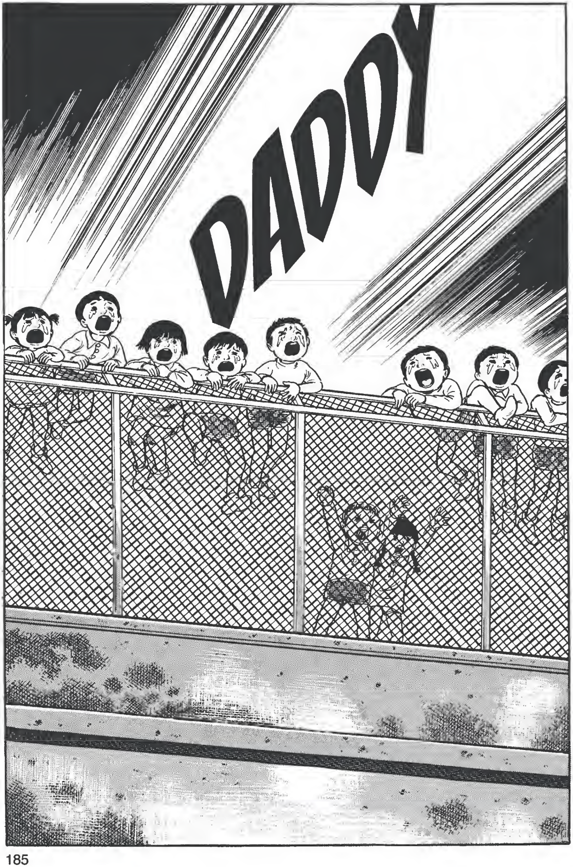

NOW... YOU! COME OVER HERE!
I DON'T WANT TO!
OH, YES YOU WILL!
YOU SAW HOW GIRLS ARE STRONGER!
NOO!
HEY, EVERYONE!
WATCH THIS!
WHUD
AIEE!
HOLD HIM BY HIS ARMS.
OKAY, PRINCESS!
NOW LOOK AT THIS SHOE! YOU WERE WEARING THIS WHEN YOU STOLE FOOD FROM THE STOREROOM!
NO! THAT'S NOT MINE!
I CAN EXPLAIN!

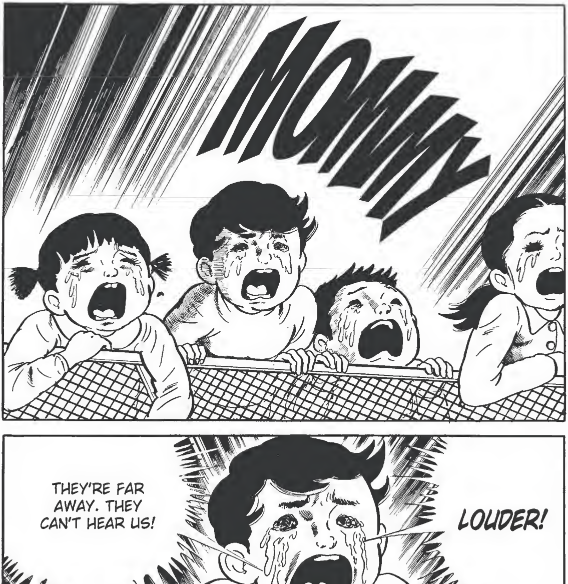

AIEE!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION WE'RE IN? TAKING A SCRAP OF FOOD IS MORE SERIOUS THAN STEALING A MILLION-DOLLAR DIAMOND!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
FWAK
AAGH!
FWAK
HEY!
STOP IT!
YOU PROVED HOW GUILTY YOU ARE BY RUNNING AT THE SIGHT OF THIS SHOE!
DON'T BOTHER TALKING. IT'S JUST GOING TO BE SOME LAME EXCUSE!
SHO!
STAY OUT OF THIS, *LOSER*.

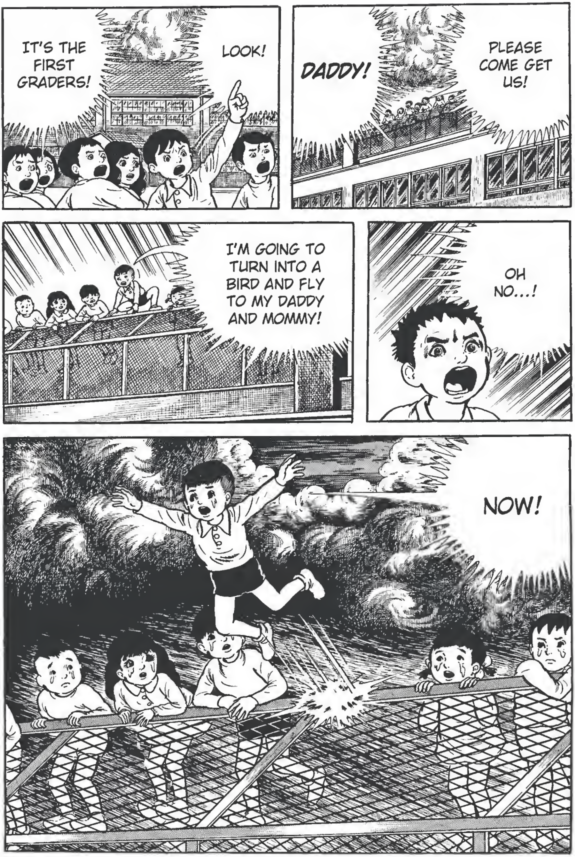

IT'S NOT MINE!
IF YOU WON'T ADMIT IT, WE'LL MAKE YOU WEAR IT!
WHUD
LOOK AT THIS SHOE!
HEY!
THEY *MATCH!* THEY'RE A PAIR!

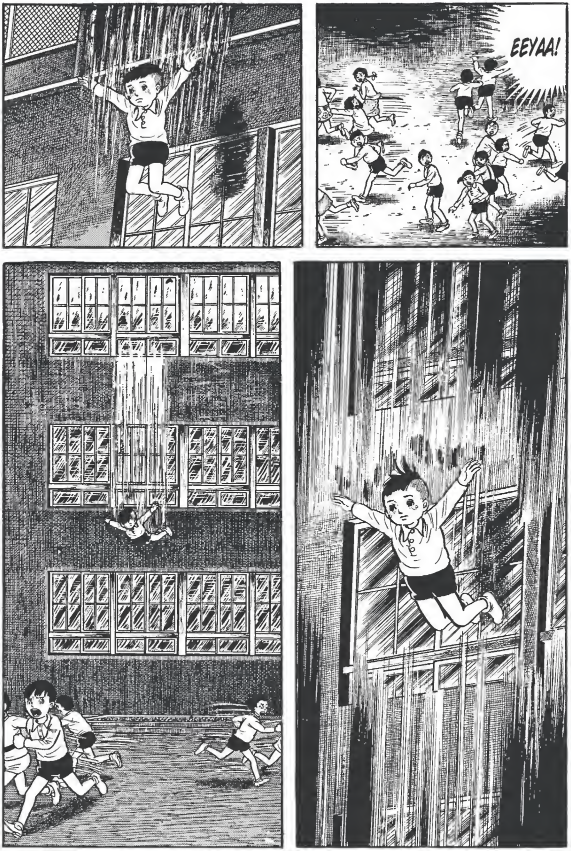

MY SHOES WERE STOLEN FROM THE LOCKER. I FOUND THAT ONE LYING AROUND!
NO! THEY'RE NOT MINE!
I WAS SCARED YOU'D THINK I DID IT! THAT'S THE TRUTH!
I *HAD* TO WEAR *SOMETHING!* THEN YOU BROUGHT OUT THE MATCHING SHOE AND SAID IT BELONGED TO THE THIEF! I GOT SCARED, SO I HID THE OTHER SHOE AND RAN!
THE PERSON WHO *REALLY* DID IT IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE! PLEASE ADMIT YOU DID IT!
NO! PLEASE!
I'M GONNA HAVE YOU EXECUTED SO THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
YOU LIAR!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STEAL A DROP OF WATER OR A BREADCRUMB!
EVERYONE WATCH! WE'RE GOING TO EXECUTE HIM RIGHT NOW!

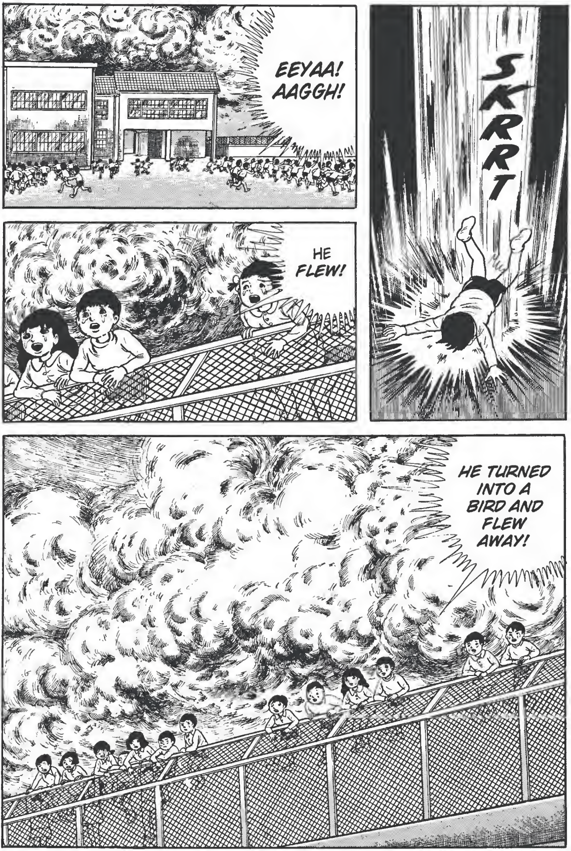

YOU'LL GET KILLED! ONLY AN ADULT CAN STOP HER!
URGH!
SHO, YOU CAN'T!
STOP IT!
NOOO!
IT WASN'T ME!
WATCH ME! FIRST I'M GOING TO BREAK HIS FINGERS ONE BY ONE!
MEOW-WOW WOW!
SEKIYA'S AN ADULT, BUT HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
ARRGHH!
DADDY
LOOK ON THE ROOF!
DO YOU SEE THAT?!
S-STOP!


DADDY


MOMMY
LOUDER!
THEY'RE FAR AWAY. THEY CAN'T HEAR US!
CALL AGAIN!
ONE, TWO, THREE!
DADDY!
MOMMY!


LOOK!
IT'S THE FIRST GRADERS!
DADDY!
PLEASE COME GET US!
I'M GOING TO TURN INTO A BIRD AND FLY TO MY DADDY AND MOMMY!
OH NO...!
NOW!


EEYAA!


SKRRT
EEYAA! AAGGH!
HE FLEW!
HE TURNED INTO A BIRD AND FLEW AWAY!

TO BE CONTINUED...